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Indo-China conference holds out best chance for Vietnam peace

Lübecker Nachrichten

Fighting came to a halt in Vietnam at 1 a.m. Central European time on 29 January. The world breathed a sigh of relief at the end of no-holds-barred warfare. Yet hardly had the ink dried on the armistice agreement but doubts arose as to whether there will be lasting peace.

It may be tempting Providence to think in terms of a resumption of hostilities but it would be equally thoughtless to assume that the armistice agreement has settled matters once and for all.

What is involved is the pacification of a country divided and ideologically at daggers drawn. That is what makes it so difficult to bring about the change from embittered hostility to mutual respect and coexistence between two halves of a country so disparate in their social set-up.

What is involved is the end of a conflict from which neither winners nor losers emerge. The armistice agreement is also a negotiated settlement with all the imperfections that entails.

Even allowing that the terms of the treaty have been drafted by so brilliant a man as Dr Kissinger they cannot be sufficiently finely contoured to take the complex realities of Vietnam entirely into account. A frightful war has given way to an unsatisfactory and uncertain peace.

The armistice agreement sets out the stages by which peace is to be restored. US troops are to be withdrawn, prisoners of war exchanged, control commissions established to supervise the observation of the terms of the agreement, an Indo-China conference convened, negotiations held to settle the future of North Vietnamese troops in the South, free elections held under international supervision and, finally, the divided country reunited.

The reality is somewhat different, mainly because South Vietnam has long ceased to be the master of its own destiny, large parts of the country being firmly under the military and political control of the Vietcong and North Vietnamese troops.

Fighting continued right up to the last minute with the aim of safeguarding and extending the territory controlled by the one side or the other and demonstrated the determination of Hanoi and the Vietcong, its associate, to yield not an inch of ground.

The reality of divided South Vietnam, lacking as it does a uniform political structure and contested by more than two dozen political groups, warrants scepticism as to the functioning of the provisions of the armistice agreement.

The Vietcong "National Liberation Front" continues to uphold its claim to be the sole authentic representative of the people of South Vietnam.

The extent of its influence will have been apparent on the Sunday after the agreement when both the South Vietnamese and Vietcong flags were flown to mark the armistice.

The sovereignty guaranteed the Saigon regime by the Americans exists more on paper than in reality. The political landscape of South Vietnam resembles a leopardskin on which the white background controlled by Saigon is marked by the black spots dominated by the Vietcong and Hanoi.

The major war that has laid the country waste may have come to an end but the possibility of outbreaks of localised and no less fearful conflict can by no means be excluded.

This is the price, a high one too, that the country has to pay for the Vietnamisation of peace efforts. America has made its peace. Whether Vietnam will retain its peace remains to be seen.

A frightful war has come to an end and it has taken the end of the war to bring the extent of the misery to light, an extent that stands in stark contrast to the prospect of pacification.

Not even the Americans, the guarantors of South Vietnamese sovereignty, seem convinced that the armistice will necessarily pave the way to domestic peace.

US air force units stationed in neighbouring Thailand and some 75,000 American troops represent an unmistakeable warning to North Vietnam that the United States is not prepared to tolerate flagrant violations of the armistice agreement.

At the same time the United States has offered to participate in the reconstruction of bomb-scarred North Vietnam to the tune of 2,500 million dollars. As this aid is to be staggered over a period of five years there can be no doubt that the United States makes its contribution towards North Vietnamese reconstruction dependent to no small extent on Hanoi taking the peace seriously.

The internationalisation of the Vietnam conflict, brought about politically by the proposal for an Indo-China conference and in humanitarian terms by worldwide reconstruction programmes, represents one of the most promising opportunities of keeping tabs on further conflict within Vietnam itself.

Only when Vietnam has been spared the murderous prospect of civil war can the prospects of lasting peace for the strife-torn country and its suffering people be said to be good.

C. M. Lankau

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 29 January 1973)

IN THIS ISSUE

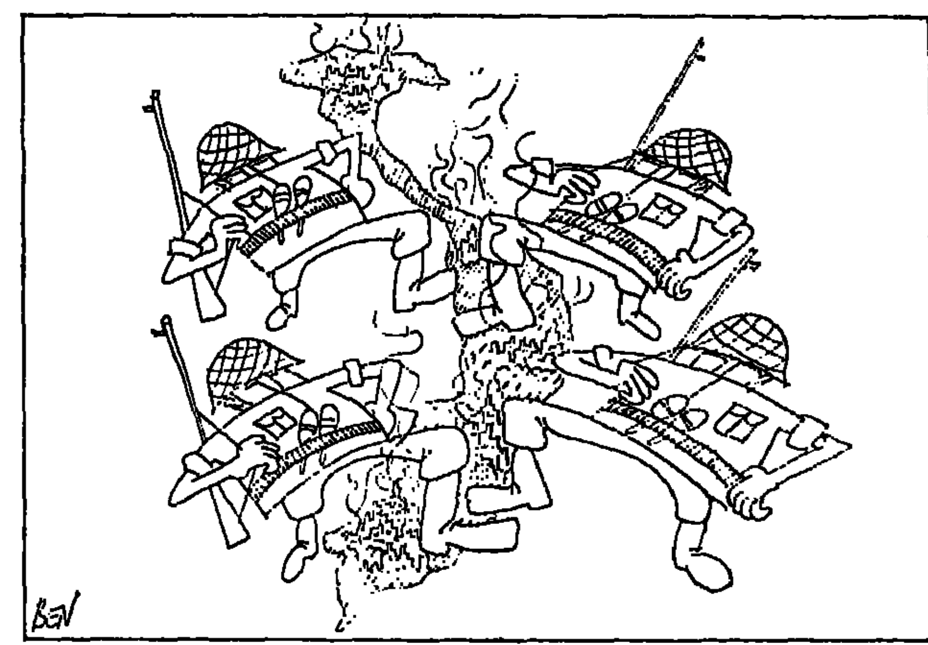
FOREIGN AFFAIRS — Page 2
Lyndon B. Johnson – a down-to-earth president

BUNDESTAG AFFAIRS — Page 5
Efforts to control lobbyists have not been successful

COMMON MARKET — Page 6
Unimaginative politicians ruin EEC integration aims

MEDICINE — Page 12
Doctors examine the results of lead poisoning

OUR WORLD — Page 14
Drinking habits and motivations analysed



The victors

(Cartoon: Benedek/Süddeutsche Zeitung)

Armistice agreement lets the Americans off the hook

Controversy about the interpretation of the Vietnam armistice agreement commenced before the two sides had even put pen to paper – not, of course, that anything else was to be expected.

President Nixon's claim that the Thieu regime was the sole legal government of South Vietnam could not be taken sitting down by the Provisional Revolutionary Government. The Vietcong cannot countenance President Thieu's refusal to acknowledge the existence of a second government in South Vietnam either.

The agreement may not, as Vietcong Foreign Minister Mme. Binh claims, talk in terms of "two governments, two administrations and two armies" but it does refer throughout to the "two parties in South Vietnam."

These two parties are expected to observe the terms of the agreement, to conclude treaties with one another and to perform certain acts of sovereignty. No matter how tortuous the interpretation it cannot be denied that the Vietcong government has been accorded de facto recognition.

The terms of the agreement likewise imply, however, recognition of the Thieu regime by Hanoi and the Vietcong.

Reference to the demilitarised zone along the seventeenth parallel established under the terms of the 1954 Geneva agreement is ambiguous. Hanoi interprets this reference to the Geneva agreement as confirmation of the unity of Vietnam. Saigon on the other hand considers this reference to the demarcation line as a delimitation of its national territory.

The agreement can only be understood as an attempt to institutionalise the state of permanent civil war. This is the key to its ambiguity, its inner contradictions and its cynicism.

The "two parties,' are enjoined to settle by negotiation – the continuation of war by other means – a conflict they have signally failed to resolve in thirty years of warfare even with the aid of their respective great power allies.

Yet both parties still lay claim to full power and consider the armistice agreement to be no more than a fresh starting-point for their aims, and both parties still retain the means of continuing armed hostilities.

As long as they remain armed to the teeth it is hardly likely that either will be prepared to accept a political defeat sustained in free elections in their respective spheres of influence.

The instructions to both parties to reach agreement on the holding of elections cannot fail to end in a farce, particularly as a team of 1,160 international observers will hardly prove sufficient.

The agreement, one must sadly conclude, is couched in vague and longwinded terms mainly in order to paper over the withdrawal of US troops and the return of prisoners of war.

The sole hope of peace is that the great powers lose interest in the Vietnam war and allow it gradually to decline to the level of local conflict and end. The wishes of the Vietnamese people will be disregarded as before.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 27 January 1973)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Lyndon B. Johnson – a down-to-earth President

DIE ZEIT

It was Easter 1964 at the LBJ ranch in Texas. The President was in rattling good humour and invited a number of White House press corps correspondents for a drive in his car.

Lyndon B. Johnson drove the heavy eight-cylinder car himself, his left hand nonchalantly holding the wheel, in his right hand a can of beer from which he took an occasional swig.

Then he put his foot hard down and accelerated to ninety. The speed limit on the two-lane country road was sixty. A woman reporter was horrified and leaned forward to protest "But Mr President!"

"Don't worry Nancy, surely you're not scared," LBJ beamed. With a smile he covered the speedometer with his ten-gallon hat and drove safely on over hill and vale flat out.

This was the Lyndon B. Johnson with whom America was familiar, a blunt he-man and the most egocentric figure of his age, a generous patron to his friends and a cold and unforgiving enemy for his opponents.

LBJ was not the scion of a rich family and he had an unerring feeling for the hopes and fears of the man in the street. He was a provincial figure with manners that were at times plebeian.

In the garden of the White House he once asked the Federal Republic ambassador to hold on to his dogs for a moment while he went over to his office for an urgent phone call.

To a query as to who was really his closest adviser he replied with a grin "You mean to say you don't know? I sleep with her every night."

He pointed with his thumb at a snapshot of his wife Ladybird, an astute businesswoman who helped to increase the family's fortunes and was at the same time a protective mother-figure for the impulsive LBJ.

The man at the wheel was also the experienced parliamentarian LBJ who persuaded, cajoled, outmanoeuvred, "bought" and covertly threatened friends and foes alike in the cigar smoke-filled nooks and crannies of the Capitol.

He loyally served the Republican President as Democratic leader in the Senate and swallowed his pride when the young and attractive John F. Kennedy outdid him and won his way into the White House – until the tragic events in Dallas one dull November day in 1963 catapulted him into the Presidency after all.

At that juncture Lyndon B. Johnson wanted to prove that he had the makings of the greatest President in the history of the United States. His career was certainly an impressive one.

At the age of 27 the ex-schoolteacher and enthusiastic supporter of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal was appointed administrator of the youth promotion programme in his home state of Texas.

In 1937 he gained election to the House of Representatives, of which he was a member for nine years. In 1948 he was elected to the Senate by a majority of 87 votes. Yet in the 1964 Presidential elections he outpolled the ultra-conservative Republican Barry Goldwater to secure the greatest majority ever achieved in an American Presidential election.

Lyndon Johnson's handicap was that he hailed from the South and was thus considered to be a covert reactionary. He proved them all wrong. Once in the White House he proved it in a troubled age marked by the stirrings of the coloured, the poor and the forgotten.

Johnson the supreme pragmatist realised that the time was ripe for many a crucial change that John F. Kennedy had not yet dared to undertake.

His powers of persuasion were instrumental in the passage of the major legislative landmarks achieved by the civil rights movement of the mid-sixties, above all the new electoral bill that finally gave coloured Americans everywhere the vote, legal equality and political power a century after the abolition of slavery.

Major welfare legislation that had been delayed by Congress for twenty years was passed during Mr Johnson's term of office: medicare for the aged, the campaign against poverty and initial reforms of archaic welfare provisions. Lyndon Baines Johnson came to assume the proportions of the most significant welfare President ever in the history of the United States.

Yet despite these successes on the home front the war in Vietnam hung like a millstone round his neck from the start. It was LBJ who escalated the conflict out of all bounds, throwing more than half a million troops into Indo-China.

Here too Lyndon B. Johnson knew no moderation. Everything he undertook was done on the grand scale, witness the grotesque intervention in the Dominican Republic some time earlier.

The war in South-East Asia ate up funds that would otherwise have been spent on his welfare programme, resulting in unrest in the Negro sections of major cities. It also led to the emergence of the peace movement and protest marches right up to the walls of the White House.

Mr Johnson disregarded the protests just as he ignored the advice of the intellectual Establishment. But when Senator McCarthy and then Robert F. Kennedy took arms against him and heralded impressive successes in their anti-war campaign LBJ reached the end of his tether.

His twofold announcement of 31 March 1968 came like a bolt out of the blue. He announced first a partial embargo on bombing in Vietnam, then his irrevocable decision not to stand for a second term.

On his retirement from the White House Mr Johnson withdrew grumpily to his Texan ranch to write his memoirs, justify his actions as President and do something about his poor state of health.

He died on his ranch on 22 January 1973 after a heart attack. He will live on in the memory of Americans everwhere as a boisterous he-man of colossal format – and the maker of equally colossal mistakes.

Joachim Schwelien

(Die Zeit, 26 January 1973)

Paris talks linger on US-Europe relations

Neue Hannoversche Presse

Chancellor Brandt summarised the outcome of his 23 January confidential talks with President Pompidou in Paris under three headings.

– Almost complete agreement had been reached on the projected conference on security and cooperation in Europe.

– Good relations were to be maintained with the United States.

– Both statesmen expressed the hope that war would soon be over in what they termed a "most upsetting" conflict.

It is evident from this summary that relations between Europe and America occupied pride of place in the Franco-Federal Republic consultations.

The two days of talks between Brandt and Pompidou were particularly important this time, not only because of the tenth anniversary of the friendship pact between the two countries but also because relations between Bonn and Paris have reached a turning-point.

Ten years ago the principal ambition was to bring centuries of traditional enmity to an end. What is more, the world was still in the middle of the Cold War.

The situation in both Europa and the world at large has changed fundamentally since then. The changes have not failed to leave their mark on relations between France and this country.

The division of Europe resulting from the Second World War has still not been overcome but differences have been offset to no small extent.

The two superpowers America and Russia have for some time progressed towards mutual understanding and are now concentrating on non-European problems, troubles in the Far East in particular.

This is the context in which the imminent end of the Vietnam war and the ensuing regrouping of US forces must be seen.

There seemed to be symbolic significance in the fact that as Chancellor Brandt and President Pompidou met for the final hours of talks in the Elysée Palace President Nixon's security adviser Henry A. Kissinger was conferring a few hundred yards away in the Hotel Majestic with North Vietnamese officials. These were the first official final peace talks and they could be expected to bring the war in Indo-China once and for all to an end.

Alongside these talks preparations are continuing space for the European security conference and the talks on mutual balanced force reduction in Europe.

Fundamental differences of opinion remain between Bonn and Paris on the MBFR talks, President Pompidou evidently opposing the idea because of fears of a vacuum in Central Europe and the possibility of rapprochement between the two German states. France is thus not to take part in the MBFR preliminaries scheduled to begin in Vienna at the end of January.

Bonn and Paris nonetheless remain on the best of terms. Cooperation is, however, faced by a situation that did not exist in 1963. In the changing international situation France and this country are trying to assume a new role.

To a certain extent they have no alternative but to act in conjunction as a result of a plethora of economic and financial links that did not exist a decade ago.

Political and emotional prejudices are gradually being overcome. Varying interests nonetheless remain to the harmonised.

Robert Hertz

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 24 January 1973)

Security talks – Moscow shows its hand

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Now that Moscow has submitted counter-proposals for the Europe security conference Soviet intentions be assessed more accurately.

Flexibly but unerringly the Kremli pursuing its target of relegating security conference in all sectors that not involve specific advantages to derived from economic cooperation general, fine-sounding but meaningless declarations of intent and of establi a standing body that might serve Soviet Union even after the first rour talks as a permanent forum whereb secure as say in the course of events launch propaganda broadsides.

In return the Soviet government prepared to make certain concessions instance discussion of improvement people-to-people contacts. It is able to so at no risk to itself because countries have already given way on issue. Exchanges will be limited subject to Soviet approval.

Soviet reservations in respect "pornography, racism and fasci provide Moscow with an opportunit shielding itself from unwelcome fluence.

Moscow has also toed the line respect of "measures designed to in confidence" on the security side, su the introduction of mutual manoe observers.

Here too the Soviet Union ha exposed itself to any great risk since this stratagem it has succeeded in wa off demands by the neutral countrie particular for further discussions military security.

This has been the aim of the pro not to hold the parallel talks on m balanced force reduction betwe presentatives of Nato and the Wa Pact but to allow all European cou interested to participate.

At the same time the Soviet intentio thereby to drive a wedge between N and the non-aligned countries.

Following their initial experiences the Rumanians the Russians now seem more inclined to adopt a m detailed agenda ensuring that there are unwelcome surprises sprung.

Unlike Nato, however, the Sov Union is not interested in debating outcome beforehand.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 24 January 1973)

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■ POLITICS

SPD moderation presents opposition with problems

In his statement of government policy Chancellor Brandt presented the SPD/FDP coalition as the "new centre" in the political spectrum of the Federal Republic. This phrase alarmed the Opposition and must have given many of his party colleagues food for thought as well. In fact it will have awoken mistrust in some of them.

The "union" parties must, as their chief mythologist Herbert Kremp put it, fear that they will have no role to play in this epoch at all, and the left wing of the SPD must come to realise that there are strict limits to the offices they can hold in this government.

It is certainly not a new technique for a party to claim it represents the political centre. In fact in the past election campaign all three major parties were fighting to claim the honour for themselves.

When two political camps are both fighting for the right to represent the centre there is a tendency for competing forces to be branded as outsiders. But this psychological mechanism is not a sufficient explanation.

As Franz Josef Strauss has made clear to the Chancellor one cannot wilfully throw out the system of political coordination and then proclaim that one's own point of view happens to be the centre. This is something that Strauss and Barzel both tried to do and failed.

It is far nearer the truth to say that the new centre in the Federal Republic developed in the last legislative period *both within* and without the SPD – in its opposition to the CDU/CSU and in its conflict with its own left wing.

Three years ago the list of domestic policies to be carried out was much fuller and more detailed. The differences in form between the government policy statements of 1969 and 1973 show only that the government has become more skilful in the techniques of governing, and that now it has not set its hopes so high.

These divergences from the 1969 ideas also reflect a change in the domestic situation in this country. The pathos of the 1969 speech reflected a rather unclarified faith in progress and emancipation in almost all members of the SPF/FDP coalition and the long list of planned reforms was the expression of an almost naive belief in the feasibility of creating ideal political situations.

It is only against this background that we can understand the claim then made "now democracy is really beginning". Today there is an atmosphere of caution and in some cases outright timidity. This can probably be explained by the fact that it was easy to reach general agreement among all involved parties in those days.

The new statement of government policy does contain many important projects – capital wealth for the private individual, land-law reforms and § 218 banning abortion – but these are rather hinted at than clearly outlined. As far as worker participation in management is concerned it is stated quite openly that there are differences of opinion between the coalition partners. This means clearly that there will be tough battles for the compromises within the government coalition.

Not only the corrective role of the FDP where domestic reforms are concerned is becoming clearer to see but also the corrective role of the Chancellor whenever left-wing extravagances come to the fore.

There were passages in the statement that could have been penned by Ludwig Erhard, for instance: "Those who want more solid progress must accept something of a slowing down in the growth rate of private consumer activities". When read out this may not be reminiscent of the "popular Chancellor" Ludwig Erhard, but it is an appeal for moderation all the same.

A whole series of conservative thought patterns crop up in the policy statement, such as the emphasis on "productivity" and "duties towards the State", the appeal to the sense of belonging to a family unit and a call for private welfare initiatives ("active compassion"), the underlined contradiction of technical progress and the "right to security".

Even the concept of democratisation in its absolute sense is circumscribed: "Places of learning and research are not to be converted into political battlefields. Perception and truth cannot be defined by majority decisions.

These phrases express the experience that was gained during the last legislative period, experienced which taught many of the reforming zealots that it is an expensive matter, a tiring business and a difficult piece of work building a modern, free and socially just society.

At the same time, however, Willy Brandt has expressed his doubts about the effectiveness and desirability of a perfected programme of reforms that takes no account of the individual – and that at a time when the left wing of the party is striving for more fundamental, or at least more far-reaching reforms, tending towards a socialised State.

The corrective remarks of the Chancellor aimed at over-enthusiastic or doctrinaire left-wingers are of course not precise suggestions from an enlightened Social Democrat monarch, who moreover hopes that the citizens of the new centre "are sensitive enough to recognise the new outlines of more progressive and more lasting interests".

Still, these words show clearly that the conflict over the free socialist State will be hammered out within the Coalition.

This is also the reason why the CDU/CSU are in danger of being caught offside. The alternatives that they have offered so far – a general criticism of the principles of Socialism coupled with a watered down version of the Coalition's reform programme – are just not good enough.

In this way the Opposition is in danger of becoming a loyal although constantly carping auxiliary force for the government's policies with little more than a nuisance value. Its criticisms fall short of the mark, however.

The same applies unfortunately to foreign policy and German policy. On this the statement of government policy contains a sentence of almost arrogant boldness: "Never before has Germany enjoyed such a comparatively good understanding with the free spirit of its citizens, with its neighbours and with its partners in international politics."

Fatally for the Opposition this sentence is scarcely an exaggeration. At the end of the second Adenauer legislative period this country was certainly well adjusted in its foreign policies, though this applied of course almost entirely to the Western world; but now the Federal Republic is well attuned to international politics in general, and the people of this country realise it. A large section of the "union" parties, however, closes ears and eyes to this fact.

There is no denying that the policies of recent years have made the Federal Republic more of a reality, a livelier being and more effective than ten years of inflammatory protestations ever could have – so much of a reality in fact that the GDR cannot escape it.

The old clichés bandied about when criticising the Ostpolitik – that it renounced national claims and human rights to the illusory attractions of detente, clichés on which Rainer Barzel still bases his policies, have little in common with the policies that are actually being pursued.

Those who still make their main objection to the Brandt government's foreign and East Bloc policies that they lack solidity and cannot be implemented satisfactorily are grotesquely distorting the realities.

The Brandt government's policies achieved more than anyone in Bonn would have contemplated in his wildest dreams a few years since. And that included advance in the sphere of human rights. The government's policies relegated flashiness and thoughts of prestige to a back seat for the first time since the best years of the Adenauer era.

Naturally this involved paying less respect to the nice formalities and at times this may have bordered on negligence and excessive malleability. One may regret these unwanted side effects, but that is far from condemning the policy as a whole.

One intelligent analyst from CDU/CSU ranks expressed his concern at Bonn's foreign policy by calling it national arrogance in the guise of modesty. This is indeed a foothold for a serious critical attack. Just what is this policy aiming at in the end?

At the moment reconciliation with the East and a new national impetus seem to fit in well with our ties with the West, but this does not rule out the possibility of future collisions of interest in West and Ostpolitik. Nor does it guarantee absolutely that the balance will be maintained. This is sensible and constructive probing at the roots of government policies, and it was strikingly absent in Barzel's reply to the Brandt statement. Barzel clung tenaciously to the electioneering slogan of the past.

A few years ago the critics of Bonn's foreign policy always managed to remain one jump ahead. Today they, including the Opposition, have been left standing. In this way too it is possible to get away from the political centre, from the centre of conflict.

However indistinct Brandt's expression 'the new political centre' may be it is an attitude that is highly dangerous for the Opposition. The government is now in the process of forming its own opposition.

Rolf Zundel

(Die Zeit, 26 January 1973)

Barzel plans to 'go among the people'

Rainer Barzel is not having to face many slings and arrows following his unsuccessful election bid on behalf of the CDU. Amid rapturous applause from more than 500 members of the CDU and the Junge Union in the hall of a Krefeld hostelry recently the Chairman of the Christian Democrats promised that he would go "out among the people" much more than in the past.

"Gross anti-Socialism gets us nowhere," Barzel declared and to the suggestion from one participant in the conference that the CDU might make its mark as the party of the consumers Barzel said that the CDU should not let any of its image as the popular party, caring for social welfare be stolen from it.

The CDU/CSU must get away from its old image as the industrialists' party, Barzel said. He added that the party had not lost the support of the middle classes. He felt that the party had lost women voters, both new and old, because the fair sex sympathised with a peace-making Chancellor who had been driven into a corner.

In retrospect, Barzel said, one week after the meeting in Siegen which was his first public appearance since the election slump, the CDU had not noted the mood of the voters prior to 19 November. Looking to the future he promised the Bonn Coalition a greater degree of tactical holding-back than previously. "We will not rob the government of the chance to sit and think," he said.

As its Chairman declared, the CDU is ready to sit at the centre and surround itself with welcome mats on all sides.

Social structures in the Federal Republic are changing, he said and the importance of the Christian ethic is being regarded by many in a new light. But as for the supposed call from within the party to drop the C (for Christian) from CDU Barzel will not hear of it. "We cannot just drop the whole purpose of our living even if the majority want to do so," he explained. Meanwhile the Young of the Junge Union kicked up a row at his words.

Again there was mention of "snipers lying in ambush" for Barzel. He urged the gunmen to show their faces and approach from the front if they dared.

Asked how he new regarded the basic German treaty Barzel said that is had not been decided whether the constitutional court should be called in. He was of the opinion it would be wrong to "go to Karlsruhe".

(Die Welt, 22 January 1973)

SPD is not centre party Barzel says

According to the Chairman of the CDU/CSU parliamentary party Rainer Barzel the Opposition will not be naming a man to stand for them as prospective chancellor before 1975.

In a lengthy interview on channel 2 the Opposition leader said that the first and foremost task for the CDU and CSU at the moment was to prepare for four years of opposition with consultations and analyses of the internal structure of the parties. An unequivocal Yes was Barzel's reply to the question whether the CDU and CSU walked hand in hand again.

Barzel attacked the government for preparing a vague policy statement designed to divert attention from the pressing problems of inflation and radicalism.

The class struggle had gained ground again within the SPD, but the statement tried to gloss over this, Barzel said. Commenting on Brandt's statement that the government's policies were middle of the road Barzel said that he had heard the news, but did not believe it. The SPD's adherence to Socialism raised the complex question of the class struggle and this was not compatible with a middle-of-the-road position.

He said that countries that propagated class warfare had not come so far as the Federal Republic wither from the social or humanitarian point of view.

Asked what the role of the "Union" parties would be in social welfare Barzel said that they would renew their offer of being a social welfare-orientated popular party. This image would be polished up and carried through with all the purposeful patience that is required for four years of opposition.

On his personal relationship towards Willy Brandt Barzel said: "We've had some ups and downs in our personal contacts. They have been good, but at the moment the are not so good as they should be."

(Die Welt, 22 January 1973)


Armin Grünewald


Rüdiger von Wechmar


Norbert Burger

Rüdiger von Wechmar – the new chief government spokesman

"Herr von Wechmar is such an excellent government spokesman that we do not need to look for a new man in this department," one SPD minister replied with a smile to the question of why his party was not supplying Conrad Ahlers' successor.

No journalist in Bonn will disagree with him. Rüdiger von Wechmar, a member of the Free Democrats since 1971, is a more suitable head for the Federal Press and Information Office than any of the other candidates speculated upon, including Günter Gaus, the *Spiegel* editor-in-chief who will probably be appointed government envoy to East Berlin this spring.

Always good-tempered, friendly and courteous, von Wechmar, born in Berlin in 1923, is completely different from Conrad Ahlers, the forthright ex-parachutist. Whereas Ahlers often let slip party secrets -- much to the annoyance of party officials and the pleasure of journalists — and coined biting *bon mots*, Wechmar never says more than he wants or should at press conferences. But he says it so intelligently and diplomatically that it almost always serves its purpose.

His former colleagues like looking back to the time when von Wechmar was a United Press correspondent and one of the most energetic journalists in Bonn or when he was later appointed to the consular service in New York and was always ready to help journalists back home.

He gained further experience in Vienna as correspondent of the ZDF television service and all this has helped him display ease and composure even at an international level.

Rüdiger von Wechmar knows that a government spokesman has to put forward the views of his employer and he loyally obeys this code without putting forward his own policies.

He always remains fair to the Opposition and he does not make party allegiance the criterion for friendship or antipathy. That is why he has no enemies and is respected even by those of different political persuasion.

Armin Grünewald, the *Stuttgarter Zeitung*'s man in Bonn, has been appointed economic policy spokesman, a post that has not previously existed. Grünewald is an experienced journalist who often used to plague government representatives at press conferences with penetrating questions. He will now have to answer other journalists' questions and it is to be hoped that he will display the same patience as when he was asking the questions.

Grünewald, 42, does not belong to any political party but his objective commentaries on the political scene attracted the attention of Chancellor Willy Brandt. That is why he was appointed to this new post.

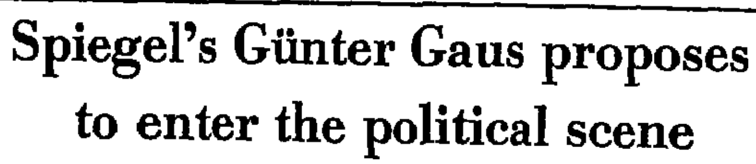
The only problem was that Grünewald, the son of a Silesian doctor, showed no inclination for doing administrative duties in his capacity as deputy head of the department. Eventually it was decided to make him a deputy spokesman with no administrative functions.

Another deputy head was then required to carry out these administrative duties. An outsider was brought in, perhaps at the suggestion of Health Minister Katharina Focke. Norbert Burger, a social affairs adviser in Cologne, has never had anything to do with the press but he has demonstrated his ability to administer the 2,700 civil servants and other staff in his department with skill and hard work. Burger is forty years old and a long-serving Social Democrat. He only obtained his post in Cologne in the face of tough opposition from the CDU.

Burger faces a completely new line of work in the Federal Press and Information Office even though administrative problems everywhere are similar. What he will need above all is the ability to deal with the various members of his staff. Here he can take a leaf from Conrad Ahlers' or Rüdiger von Wechmar's book.

Bernt Conrad

(Die Welt, 19 January 1973)



Spiegel's Günter Gaus proposes to enter the political scene

Rudolf Augstein, the *Spiegel* publisher, proved he had a great sense of vision in 1961 when he wrote: "I am of course the captive of my system which forces me to put work above politics."

This claim was found to be true on 10 January when he decided to return to his news magazine as publisher and editor-in-chief from 1 April and give up the seat in the Bundestag that he had only just acquired as a member of the Free Democrats.

Another editor-in-chief of *Spiegel* will enter politics instead. Günter Gaus, who has for years interviewed those persons in our society who wield political power, is himself seeking political power.

Rumour has it that he will become Bonn's envoy to East Berlin and be given State Secretary status. It was an open secret that Gaus had ambitious political plans. Long before the election, those in the know at *Spiegel* headquarters in Hamburg knew that their editor-in-chief expected high office if the governing coalition were returned to power.

But the planned timetable for announcing the changes in the *Spiegel* hierarchy had to be abandoned when the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* recently leaked the news to its readers.

Gaus, a passionate horseman, will have to take a cut in salary if he is appointed State Secretary. He is estimated to earn five hundred thousand Marks a year as *Spiegel* editor-in-chief and this figure has never been denied.


Günter Gaus
(Photos: Sven Simon, 4 dpa)

Günter Gaus began his journalistic career with the *Braunschweiger Zeitung* in Brunswick, before moving to Freiburg to join the *Badischer Zeitung*. From there he went to Stuttgart and joined the *Deutsche Zeitung*.

Gaus then worked in the *Spiegel* offices in Bonn. His experiences there led him to make the much-quoted statement that the *Spiegel* is the punishment block of German journalism.

His career really began when he joined the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* in Munich and started to work for television. He became known on both channels one and two as a penetrating interviewer who guaranteed interesting and lively political talks. He started work as editor-in-chief of *Spiegel* on 31 March 1969 with the sober explanation: "I want to work here."


Rudolf Augstein

Two other editors-in-chief will ... alongside Augstein from 1 April ... – Erich Böhme, currently head of ... editorial staff in Bonn, and Joh... Kukuruz, who already holds this po...

Dieter S...

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 12 Janu...)

Woman mayor

Solingen, population 178,000, ... appointed a woman to be m... Elisabeth Roock (SPD) thus joins L... Albertz of Oberhausen, the only ... women mayors in the Federal Rep...

Elisabeth Roock, 54, has been invo... in politics and trade union activities ... many years and knows and unders... problems because of her past experie... She plans to use her new position ... improve the lot of the soci... underprivileged.

(Welt der Arbeit, 19 January 19...)

Columnist Ahlers

Conrad Ahlers, former governme... spokesman and now Social Democ... member of the Bundestag, has be... appointed columnist of the *Hannoversch... Allgemeine Zeitung*, the main compet... of the SPD-owned *Neue Hannoversch... Presse*. Ahlers' first contribution ... appear on 16 January.

Conrad Ahlers will also write a reg... series of articles for the *Wirtsch... woche*, an economic weekly appearing ... Frankfurt.

(Die Welt, 21 January 19...)

Schmid honoured

Professor Carlo Schmid, the for... Bundestag Vice-President, has b... awarded the title "ambassador ... personam" for his services in coordin... cooperation between France and ... Federal Republic.

(Die Welt, 21 January 19...)

Public's favourites

The Wickert Institute of Tüb... recently spent four weeks ... viewing 2,067 people to find the ... prominent celebrities in the Fed... Republic. Playboy Gunther Sachs to... the society branch, followed ... President Gustav Heinemann, ... Heinrich Böll, mail-order magnate ... Olympic horseman Josef Necker... and Prince Louis Ferdinand of Hohe... lern.

Authors Heinrich Böll and Günter G... headed the list of cultural person... followed by a number of singers ... musicians, mainly of the popular br... and actor Heinz Rühmann.

The economic section was headed ...

Continued on page 5

■ BUNDESTAG AFFAIRS

Efforts to control lobbyists have not been successful

Pressure groups in the Federal Republic appear to have discovered a new means of increasing their social prestige – they get themselves registered at the Bundestag. Since it was decided to start a list of lobbyists at the end of September 1972, the Bundestag administration section has received more than four hundred applications for entry and there is no end in sight to this flood.

The official responsible for allocating registration numbers reached as far as number 47 before asking the Bundestag standing orders committee for stricter instructions regarding these sought-after status symbols.

Joseph Bücker, secretary of the standing orders committee, doubts whether an "official list registering all associations representing interests towards the Bundestag or government" (as the Bundestag resolution runs) will have the desired effect of revealing the influence of lobbyists on the legislative machinery. Bücker therefore believes it indispensable for the Bundestag executive to agree on guidelines.

Though years of discussion finally led to the speedy passage of a law in the last hectic days of the old Bundestag, the original aim seems to have been diluted and the regulation is having a reserve effect.

It was meant to restrict the influence of interest groups in a number of sectors but as things appear now their influence seems to be on the increase. An inter-parliamentary working party stated in a memorandum issued in 1965 that a law should be passed to make the influence exerted by interest groups appear more obvious. But the new procedure only makes the true situation all the more obscure.

The reason is that the Bundestag's resolution on lobbyists was only recorded in the standing orders. It therefore only obliges members of the Bundestag and has no force in law.

The resolution is not binding on the government either, despite the fact that most Bills are drawn up by one of the ministries and interest groups will immediately turn to ministry advisers to exert influence.

It is also possible for ministries to obtain expert advice from these interest groups. In fact the government's standing orders encourage them to do so.

The resolution on the "registration of associations and their representatives" contains the incentive which has prompted interest groups to descend on the Bundestag with such vigour.

Only those recorded on the list published annually will normally be allowed to put across their point of view at public hearings organised by the Bundestag. As written statements are sometimes requested, interest groups that had not registered would find themselves left out in the cold.

Registration also holds out the prospect of obtaining a pass to the Bundeshaus enabling the bearer to enter the building whenever he wishes.

The resolution can only prove of advantage to all lobbyists as they are not forced to agree to anything. There is no clear line either on what action could be taken in the event of non-registration or expulsion. Nobody can say for sure what sanctions can be imposed on interest groups that violate principles which have not yet been formulated.

The members of the Bundestag were so full of moral fervour that they wanted to improve parlamentarianism's tarnished image by extending standing orders with a regulation on interest groups.

But they could not have read the objections made by the Ministry of the Interior to a similar proposal in the fifth legislative period. The problems of direct and indirect influence on individuals are not touched upon, the ministry claimed, and having a registration number at the Bundestag represents a latter-day patent of nobility that will enhance the reputation of the bearer.

Basically, the Bundestag wished to put a stop to the presumed corruption, to use Chancellor Brandt's term, which many people saw behind the decision of a number of Bundestag members to change sides midway through the last legislative period. But merely registering a large number of interest groups does not appear to be an effective means of ruling out all corruption in future.

We shall not see whether the "rules of conduct for members of the Bundestag" – recorded in standing orders simultaneously with the resolution on the registration of lobbyists – will have any greater effect until the new Bundestag handbook is issued or the Bundestag executive publishes details of violations.

Erhard Goden of the Bundestag registration department is now well-acquainted with the difficulties arising from the mere registration of interest groups. His department had to contact nearly all applicants as it needed precise details of the composition of executive and management, the sphere of interests covered by the association and the number of members.

The definition of a "sphere of interest" proved extremely complicated in many cases in view of the large number of interrelated associations. Some have no members of their own as they are an umbrella organisation for other groups. Others exist only at a regional level.

The purpose behind the Income Taxpayers Interest Group with its 180,000 members and its number one place on the Bundestag list is obvious enough but problems mount up when it comes to the National Pedestrian League, the Rum Union, the Edeka Headquarters or the Working Party of Forest-owner Associations.

The Expellees Association claimed that its political aims were the achievement of the right of self-determination and the right to their ancestral home. One legal organisation gave its membership as eight.

Though this interest group is above all suspicion, the existence of other associations in a similar position seem to suggest that they have merely been founded so as to be entered on to the Bundestag list, giving their founders an influence they did not possess beforehand.

Many people find it rather unreasonable that ecclesiastical and ideological organisations, publicly-run institutions and foundations and employee and employer associations should be made to apply for entry on to a list of lobbyists when their work is obviously to represent their members' interests.

There is the danger that the infinitely long lobbyist list, which will never be studied accurately anyway, will only contain those organisations that do not want to exert an undue influence on the legislative machinery. The actual unpermitted string-pulling will continue undisturbed beneath the surface.

Klaus Dreher

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 8 January 1973)

Continued from page 4

politicians Karl Schiller, Ludwig Erhard and Helmut Schmidt. Then came the real "captains of industry" Berthold Beitz, Hermann Josef Abs and the late Friederich Flick. Franz Josef Strauss' name also crops up among the most prominent people in the economic sector.

Wernher von Braun, the German-American space expert, tops the list of scientists, followed by nuclear physicist Otto Hahn and science writer Hans Haber. They are followed in their turn by former Science Minister Hans Leussink and Carl Friederich von Weizsäcker, head of the Max Planck Institute.

The Wickert survey reveals that Chancellor Willy Brandt tops the list of politicians. Second and third places are claimed by the Opposition – Rainer Barzel and Franz Josef Strauss. They are followed by Free Democrat leader Walter Scheel and Finance Minister Helmut Schmidt.

Television occupies the leading position in the journalists section. Gerhard Löwenthal, a TV news magazine presenter, beats *Spiegel* publisher Rudolf Augstein into second place.

These two men are followed by publishers Franz Burda and Axel Springer, television journalist Werner Höfer, *Stern* publisher Henri Nannen, Peter Bönisch of the Springer concern and television journalists Peter Merseburger, Gerd Ruge and Peter von Zahn.

(Münchner Merkur, 13 January 1973)

Speaker calls for simpler dissolution rules

Plans to alter Basic Law as a result of the problems encountered when dissolving the Bundestag last year are not doomed to inevitable failure, parliamentarians believe, even though the election of 19 November 1972 gave the government a clear majority and the whole issue is no longer regarded as urgent.

Annemarie Renger, the new Bundestag President, has called for a simplified procedure as she finds it intolerable that a chancellor must ask his own party to express its lack of confidence in him in order to dissolve the Bundestag and call new elections.

Annemarie Renger also took this opportunity to describe the reform of parliamentary procedure as a permanent task if the Bundestag's methods are to be adapted to the continually changing situation.

She welcomed the fact that Bundestag members are now obliged to declare their other sources of income and stated that members do seem to be obeying the call to supply more accurate information for the Bundestag Handbook.

Less importance is attached to learning how much members are earning from other sources as to which members are representing what interests. No new instructions regarding the registration of lobbyists in the Bundestag have been issued.

Inter-party talks on the future organisation of committees have swung in favour of reducing the membership of these committees. The number of committees will be increased in view of the larger number of ministries but the 37-member committees will be dissolved in favour of smaller committees with fewer members. But a decision is still awaited from the Council of Elders that has yet to be formed.

Eghard Mörbitz

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 12 January 1973)

Moves to improve pensions of election victims

The real victims of the permanent parliamentary warfare between 1969 and 1972 are the 64 former members of the Bundestag who missed qualifying for a considerably higher pension by four months as a result of the premature dissolution.

Twenty-three of them are unable to claim a pension and another 23 remain in the lowest of the three categories and can only reckon with 1,090 Marks a month from the age of 65 instead of 1,650 Marks from the age of sixty.

Eighteen others will have to wait until the age of sixty until they draw their pension – and then it will only be 1,650 Marks a month instead of the 2,350 Marks they would otherwise have received from the age of 55.

But help is at hand for those victims who cannot claim a pension now. Hermann Schmitt-Vockenhausen, Vice-President of the Bundestag, plans to allow them to continue paying contributions to the special Bundestag scheme in order to reach the necessary limit.

But observers who know the Bundestag well reckon that the other 41 victims will also be given the chance of paying extra contributions in order to qualify for the higher category they would have achieved had the Bundestag run its full term.

(Die Zeit, 12 January 1973)

Bundestag plans to alter attendance procedures

The Bundestag will probably take longer breaks in the new legislative period than it has done in the past. After its defeat in the election last year the Opposition has agreed to this demand. It had previously called for a restriction on the number of interruptions so that it would be able to put forward its views in the Bundestag at almost any time.

The executive managers of the three Bundestag parties are therefore deliberating at present on a new timetable that will rationalise parliamentary procedure. They are considering a switch to a fortnightly rhythm.

Members of the Bundestag will be called upon to spend two weeks in Bonn under this scheme before being given two free weeks. Members who live a long way from Bonn would no longer spend so much time travelling to and from the Bundestag and would be able to plan their timetable better.

This "two weeks on, two weeks off" scheme has been employed occasionally in the past. But the rule in the last legislative period was two weeks of debate and one week free.

As early as 1969 the governing coalition called for greater consideration to be made of the tiring journeys Bundestag members have to make as a result and pointed out that they also have a duty to their constituencies.

But the Christian Democrats had narrowly failed to regain the reins of government and in view of the slim government majority engaged upon a constant policy of confrontation and therefore wished to be in the public gaze all the time.

Their new strategy is based on their realisation that such excessive activity in the Bundestag does not always pay off. They now believe it is much better to tell voters what they offer and what they could do better than the government. A change in the Bundestag's timetable would suit their purpose admirably as it gives them greater opportunity to meet constituents.

Dieter von König

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 10 January 1973)

■ COMMON MARKET

Unimaginative politicians ruin EEC integration aims

The days when the young people of Europe tore up border markers and burnt them as a demonstration are past and gone. The violence and passion of creating European unity is a thing of the past – today the work is long and painstaking. And politicians seem to lack the imagination and guts to create from above what no longer can be built up from below.

At the moment they are all capitulating to the supposed requirements of the countries from which they come. The European Communities, the greatest political gamble since the War, are at present running on the spot.

Integration, the instrument of union, was such a revolutionary thought that a special effort was needed if it was to be realised. The thoughts and actions of those pioneer Europeans were borne aloft on quite exceptional pinions.

Everyone clearly remembered the horrors of the War, and the impending threat of the Soviet Union spurred Europeans to exceptional deeds. With Stalin's death the immediate threat of invasion seemed to subside. With it went this initial impulse to club together. From then on the Community lived first and foremost on its economic nature.

But the economic and political aims of integration have from the outset been directly connected. The intention was to secure peace in Europe, make the Continent a political unit capable of holding its own and increase the prosperity of its citizens. Defence policies, however, provided no incentive towards integration. It is in other spheres that notable successes have been scored.

According to the Treaties of Rome economic integration was the first to be achieved. It was hoped that this would pave the way for political integration – and the first President of the European Commission Walter Hallstein was a champion of this idea.

History proved, however, that with growing economic integration the fire of political conflict was constantly being fuelled. When General de Gaulle realised that his country could not be a member of the Community and remain absolutely sovereign in 1965 he called a halt.

A year later this crisis had been overcome on paper, yet the Community has not yet fully recovered from it. All the successes of integration were achieved before this crisis blew up. The greatest successes were those that were achieved directly as an outcome of the political elan of the Rome Treaties. Apart from majority voting on policies in the Council of Ministers all the norms of the Treaties have been implemented, and where customs duties are concerned they have been brought into force more quickly than envisaged by the Rome Treaties.

Since 1 July 1968, eighteen months before the transitional period was intended to run out, no customs duties have been levied at the internal boundaries of member States. Instead of this the whole Community is encapsulated with an external customs barrier.

Nor are there import quotas among members of the EEC. The only kind of protectionism still to be overcome is the latent kind (such as health regulations and veterinary quarantining). The economy of EEC countries has orientated itself on the new setup of the major internal market and become more productive.

In Europe there are certain markets that have become completely separated off from the market economy, however. These include fuel and power, agriculture, technology and transport. It is on these markets that the crucial decisions are made by politicians. A Community policy in these spheres is only possible on the basis of a concept developed by the member States and Community bodies.

It is only in the field of agriculture that notable strides have been made towards integration. But the joint agricultural policy was achieved because of France's *blackmail in the form of a threat to blast the Community to pieces*. It was when the joint agricultural policy was formed that the other member countries saw it as being a foothold on the climb towards integration. It helped bind the Community together.

But this was a cruel deception. The system produces more food than is required. The complicated scaffolding of administrative measures and subvention schemes in order to influence prices, quotas, imports and exports has become a symbol of irrational economics.

For the success of the agriculture policy as a step towards integration is bought at a high price in terms of economics. On the one hand there are mountains of unsaleable butter and sugar and floods of milk, while on the otherhand beef is scarce, the financial burden on member countries is growing rapidly and conflicts are arising in the trading policy with the United States and developing countries. These are just some of the faults of an agricultural policy that is championed mainly by the French as if it were their property.

Agriculture showed clearly the limitations of Community integration. The fixed communal agricultural produce prices, which are not determined by the market but by political bodies are expressed in a special unit, since there is not yet a Community currency. This unit corresponds to the value of the dollar.

When France devalued French farmers got more francs per dollar than they had previously done. More than ever before French farmer's production had failed to take account of the state of the market. France's exports to other member countries had to be surcharged and a subsidy applied to her imports. Precisely the opposite procedure was applied to our farmers when the Mark revalued.

This complicated adjustment procedure would be superfluous if there were one currency only in the Community. So the Council of Ministers passed a resolution on 22 March 1972 decreeing that an economic and monetary union would be built up step by step.

Following the plans of the Werner Commission which had first mooted such a union all important currency policy measures were made subject to a foreclosure clause.

The originators of this idea wanted to make sure that the currency policy measures taken would be synchronised with the coordination of economic policies in individual member countries. Any country that has made good progress in the currency policy sphere can recoup its investment if there should be no agreement on the transition from the first to the second phase of the EMU – which is scheduled for 1 January 1974.

A few months were all that was needed to show that ideas of six or indeed nine governments' coordinating their economic policies were misplaced. This was the conclusion reached by a fifteen-man study group under the leadership of former Commission member Hans von der Groeben and Professor Ernst Joachim Mestmäckers of Bielefeld University who researched into methods of European integration.

This report has since been published by Athenaeum Verlag as volume 31 of the series *Wirtschaftsrecht und Wirtschaftspolitik*.

Researchers came to the conclusion that the ideal solution would be a constitutional one with economic and currency policy-making resting with a European States Chamber and a freely elected European parliament. An independent commission would be responsible for seeing that decisions made became law.

Since the ideal situation can hardly be created at present as things stand in Europe researchers are recommending as a solution that individual States should renounce currency policy bodies for the control of their domestic economic and industrial affairs and that the authority for these should be handed on to Community bodies. The Community monetary and credit policy thus created would enforce harmonisation of other aspects of economic policy. This is the viewpoint of the "monetarists" who, unlike the "economists", are prepared to renounce the parallelism of monetary and economic policies.

The committee of economic experts – Five Wise Men – also tend towards this opinion. But past experience of monetary policy activities does not encourage extravagant hopes. When the narrowed bandwidths on which the governments hastily agreed could no longer be adhered to by Britain and Italy it was not their economic policies that London and Rome amended. The EEC simply relaxed the rules for repayment of support credits.

If this state of affairs persists one fears that governments will take the – incorrect – line of least resistance. They will not give up their authority but will simply change it to the form of controls. The controls on the traffic in capital within the Community are living proof of this. The present stagnation on the path to integration is blocking progress towards the European future. Furthermore it is robbing Europe of the benefits of integration already achieved.

In this situation the only direction in which to flee is forwards. The Five Wise Men described the advantages of a Community monetary and credit policy in this manner: whoever wanted more stability than his partner – if traffic in capital were quite free – would take up Community capital and have to give up his strict exchange rate. Whoever allowed more inflation than the others would lose currency reserves and would likewise have to concur with the generally accepted rate in the Community. Countries that did not want to play ball would have to leave the Community or alter their parity with the leave of their partners. Only then would Europe be on the right road.

Rudolf Herlt

(Die Zeit, 19 January 1973)

Division of votes in Common Market
Commission from 1 January 1973

Britain 10 · France 10 · Netherlands 5 · Belgium 5 · Denmark 3 · Eire 3 · Luxembourg 2 · Italy 10 · FRG 10

The new EEC Commission of nine

The division of responsibilities of thirteen European commiss[ioners] from nine States who recently swor[e an] oath before the European Court that [they] would act independently of governme[nts] of member countries has the follo[wing] particular emphases:

1. Wilhelm Haferkamp, the Fed[eral] German Vice-President will take o[n] chief responsibility for the develo[pment of] Economic and Monetary Union.

2. Britian's European Commiss[ioner] George Thomson will be responsibl[e for] the economic development of run-do[wn] and underdeveloped regions, which ha[ve so] far been an also-ran in the Community.

3. The joint policy for the developm[ent] of top European industries and for [the] promotion of re-structuring in bra[nches] that have been suffering a de[cline] (textiles, coal, shipbuilding, etc.) remains in the hands of the It[alian] Commissioner Altiero Spinelli.

4. European social welfare po[licies] which were dealt with at length a[t the] European Summit at the urging of [the] Federal Republic and France, will be [the] responsibility of the Eire EEC Vice-Pr[esi]dent (and former foreign min[ister]) Patrick John Hillery.

5. General foreign relations with [the] United States, Japan and the East [bloc] with a weather eye to the realignm[ent of] transatlantic relations, but excl[uding] relationships with Third World cou[ntries] will be the responsibility of the B[ritish] Vice-President Sir Christopher Soam[es].

Another new aspect of the Co[mmis]sion's work concerns public rela[tions]. Italian Vice-President Scaraszia Mug[nozza] takes on the responsibility for rela[tions] between the European Commissio[n and] the European Parliament in Stras[bourg], the first time the two have had a [liaison] man.

Signor Mugnozza is also responsib[le for] the department dealing with prote[ction] of the consumer. In his hands, too, [is the] Community's joint transport progr[amme] and environmental protection.

This country's European Commis[sioner] Professor Ralf Dahrendorf, who has [for] the past three years successfully ha[ndled] foreign relations and foreign trade [now] moves on to research, science a[nd] education. Western Europe's new "A[gri]culture Minister" is Pierre Lardinoi[s] who has up till now been responsible [for] farming affairs in The Netherlands.

Taxation and fuel and power [are] entrusted to Belgium's Vice-Presi[dent] Henri Simonet, development aid [and] overseas cooperation are in the hand[s of] French Commissioner Jean-Fra[nçois] Deniau, while Denmark's Finn O. Gundelach is in charge of the Cus[toms] Union and responsible for the creati[on of] a genuine Western European free [trade] area.

Luxembourg's Albert Borschette [has] handled the Community's anti-[trust] supervision so fiercely and succ[essfully] that his continuation in this capa[city has] been approved.

The EEC's President Ortoli [made] three main points in his addr[ess to the] new Commission in anticipati[on of its] commencing operations.

1. It is a "political body con[sisting of] politicians".

2. Thanks to the political will [of the] members as expressed at [the] Summit it has been able to [take on] precise new duties with a sche[dule that] puts a burden of responsibility [on the] Commission and the governme[nts of the] Nine.

3. The Commission will [operate] optimally – with "imagin[ation and] boldness in thought and [practi]cally speaking". *Herm[...]*

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten [...])

■ INDUSTRY

Mannesmann edges towards majority holding in Demag

Up till now Demag has been in the hands of the Reuters. Hans Reuter, [..], controlled the fate of the Duisburg machinery manufacturing firm until 1962, when he took on the post of Deputy Chairman of the supervisory board. Since then his son Wolfgang, 48, has been at the head of the firm.

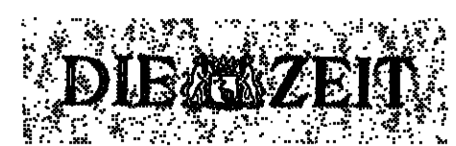
But in future another man wishes to have a say in the running of Demag's affairs, Egon Overbeck, General Director of Mannesmann, Düsseldorf. For months this news has been going the rounds of the stock exchange as a rumour, but now it has become a certainty.

Mannesmann has quietly and with little fuss bought into Demag and now holds 171 million Marks of the company's capital, according to reliable sources, a good thirty-per-cent share.

The Rhineland pipe manufacturing giant therefore now has a greater influence on Demag than the Reuter family, which owns about twelve per cent of Demag shares and has up till now been recognised as the only major shareholder in the company, the remainder of Demag's shares being distributed among about 30,000 small investors.

Observers feel that Egon Overbeck is aiming to build up a majority holding gradually. This would mean the end of independence for the last of the leading machinery manufacturing firms (turnover in 1971 – 1,700 million Marks).

For Mannesmann (1971 turnover – 7,200 million Marks) buying into Demag



is a consistent pursuance of the policy the firm has been following in recent years.

To put it in a nutshell this policy means moving away from raw materials, a sector of industry that is highly sensitive to economic fluctuations, in favour of processing.

With this policy in mind the former mining company turned over its pits with their annual production of 5,500,000 tons to the Ruhr coal consortium Ruhrkohle AG when this was formed at the end of 1969. At the same time its steel rolling-mills passed to Thyssen.

In return for this Thyssen incorporated its pipeline manufacturing sector in Mannesmann in which it has a third share. Thanks to the structure of the pipeline empire Mannesmann escaped the depression in this sector with less damage than conventional steel firms.

Simultaneously Egon Overbeck, who took over the management of Mannesmann in 1962, began to take an interest in machinery manufacture and industrial plant. He took over the hydraulics firms G.L. Rexroth in Lohr on the Main and Constantin Rauch in Ulm.

In the sphere of machinery and plant manufacture Mannesmann, which now only produces steel to meet its own needs in the pipeline manufacturing sector, enjoyed a turnover of 1,100 million Marks in 1971.

With the aid of cooperation Mannesmann could benefit particularly from Demag's experience in the spheres of plant manufacture, conveying and loading. In the production of pipelines and plastics manufacturing machinery in which both concerns are equally involved it would be possible to prevent overlapping.

As far as Demag is concerned the main advantage of a link-up with Mannesmann would be that it would be in close contact with a partner whose finances were in a strong position.

The pace of investment at Demag, where Wolfgang Reuter's spending helped double turnover in the past four years, has put the company under some pressure finance-wise.

Two revaluations of the Mark and the last economic recession underlined the susceptibility of the concern. Profits were down by more than a half in 1971. At the same time the company's indebtedness – already quite high – increased still further. The amount of self-financing in the company's capital assets shrank from 37 per cent in 1968 to a mere 21 per cent in 1970.

The Duisburg firm suffered its worst losses in its latest branch, plastics manufacturing machinery, which was begun in 1965 with high hopes expressed all round.

Mannesmann were not prepared to admit to their Demag coup even when the news filtered through that the supervisory boards of the two companies were due to meet to discuss the consequences of this liaison and the possibility of close cooperation. A spokesman for the concern said: "I am afraid I must deny these allegations."

Hans Otto Eglau

(Die Zeit, 19 January 1973)

Major shipyard in Hamburg to close

Handelsblatt
DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG
Industriekurier

Finkenwerder shipyard in Hamburg is to close. As expected the supervisory board of Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft under the chairmanship of Hans Birnbaum decided in Kiel on 12 January that in the course of this year shipbuilding in HDW's Finkenwerder yard on the Elbe would be terminated.

The works will be run down and as soon as outstanding orders have been completed all spheres of production will be taken over by the Ross and Rolherstieg works. Most of the 1,600 men employed at Finkenwerder will find work at these yards. Benefits will be worked out for those employees made redundant by this closure.

In a communiqué published after this meeting the supervisory board and board of directors of HDW said that they had conferred with the Hamburg managerial staff on the measures needed as part of further rationalisation, particularly at the Ross yard.

The measures decided upon should be beneficial to Hamburg's shipbuilding industry. At the end of February new plant would come into operation at the Ross yards.

HDW's main emphasis as far as investment is concerned, however, will be on Kiel. The supervisory board approved the second investment programme for the development of the Kiel-Gaarden works.

(Handelsblatt, 15 January 1973)

■ MOTORING

VW-Porsche unveil their new 914 2.0 model

Frankfurter Rundschau

Three years ago when VW-Porsche unveiled the 914 sports model with its engine mounted in mid-chassis it was the talk of both the showrooms and of rival design teams.

From the start views were diametrically opposed. Some felt it represented an epoch-making advance in sports car construction, a new era in roadholding; others could only shake their heads at such technological nonsense.

In the meantime the waves of emotion have subsided. There can no longer be any thought of a new era in automobile construction. Volkswagen have quietly buried a fairly advanced successor to the Beetle in which the engine was also to be housed roughly in the centre of the vehicle.

Kurt Lotz, at that time newly-appointed managing director of Volkswagen, reached the 250-million-Mark decision to abandon the project as soon as it became apparent that this design would have made the projected Beetle successor a 10,000-Mark car.

There has not been a revolution in sports car design either. A few weeks ago Fiat unveiled the new X 1/9 with engine mounted immediately behind the front seats (like the VW-Porsche). Another three years are likely to elapse before the next manufacturer follows suit, always assuming one does.

Fair enough, you may say, Porsche were never mass manufacturers. Indeed Porsches have always been custom-built for car-lovers in the best sense of the word, and unless the indications are deceptive the VW-Porsche will likewise remain exclusive.

Its greatest drawback was from the start a split personality, so to speak. There was a popular version costing 12,000 Marks and fitted out with the engine of the Volkswagen 411. It developed a modest eighty horse power.

Then there was the 914 with the six-cylinder Porsche racing engine developing 110 horse power. This more powerful version was capable of nearly 125 miles an hour but cost nearly 20,000 Marks.

For several months a new version of the 914 has been on the market. The 914 2.0 has replaced the six-cylinder model at a lower price. It boasts a two-litre four-cylinder engine based on the 411 engine that develops a steady 100 horse power at 5,000 revs.

The new 914 is nearly as fast as its predecessor yet costs a "mere" 13,760 Marks. The old eighty-horse-power model is still available for the time being but it would be madness to buy it when the new version costs only 400 Marks more.

The chassis is naturally the fascinating characteristic of the VW-Porsche. With the engine amidships front and rear axles are virtually equal in the weight they have to carry. Not even a heavy payload can upset this balance much.

The upshot is good behaviour while cornering, even at high speed. Unlike nearly every other car there never comes the nasty moment when you feel either the front or the rear of the car getting out of control. The 914 neither understeers nor oversteers.

Even with increasing speed the car takes every corner in its stride, partly, of course, because there is next to no play in the steering. You feel you might be turning full circle, like a scooter at a fun fair.

It is really enjoyable to tour, say, the Vosges in a sports car like this. You turn left, right and left again, uphill and downhill, for hours at a time if need be.

Be that as it may, the 914 design principle has failed to gain general acceptance among rally drivers and committed racing fans. A car with centrally-mounted engine gives no advance warning of when the limit has been reached. That is the danger with cars that are so safe. They hold their ground until the last moment.

Then, when the utmost limit of roadholding has been reached, the run-of-the-mill motorist is hardly in a position to cope with the situation. The car then sails over the edge.

Still, provided you do not overdo it you can derive a great deal of enjoyment from what, from the point of view of handling, is virtually a toy car.

This pleasure is cloyed somewhat by the noise that continually surrounds driver and co-driver. The engine is located only a foot behind their ears, and it is a noisy engine because it is air-cooled.

The eighty-horse-power VW-Porsche was a noisy customer, not to mention the six-cylinder version with its punch-packing 110 horse power. The latest 100-horse-power engine is not exactly quiet either.



Interior design of new VW-Porsche

(Photo: Volkswagenwe

Its two litres make their presence heard, not to say felt. Driven flat out communication can only be by means of sign language, and after a few hours at the wheel a diet of headache pills is called for.

Even so, the two-litre engine represents an improvement. Twenty horse power more deliver the goods, and 120 miles an hour is more like what one would expect of a sports car.

The improvement is even more noticeable in respect of acceleration. The 2.0 accelerates to sixty from a standing start in 10.5 seconds as opposed to thirteen. That is more like it!

The 914 2.0 has one undeniable drawback, though. It is a two-seater and nothing whatsoever more. This makes it either a second car or a mere toy, and even at that it does not represent pleasure unalloyed. The driver and co-driver really have to manoeuvre their way into position.

The co-driver in particular feels hemmed in and limited to a prearranged posture. The VW-Porsche is certainly a car for drivers only and all other considerations take a back seat.

Inadequate luggage space

Luggage presents problems. It is a nuisance to discover that there is not even room for a slim-line briefcase in the interior of the car. The two luggage compartments take flat articles only.

The VW-Porsche will probably remain an exception that proves the rule. This certainly makes it unusual and a status symbol. Buyers must realise, however, that they are purchasing a single-purpose vehicle.

The 914 is a car for driving only. Everything else has been subordinated to a delightful physical facility. If that is what you are after, then the best of luck.

Peter Klinkenberg

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 6 January 1973)

VW-Porsche 914 2.0

Engine	Four-cylinder	Battery	Twelve-volt, 45 Ah
Cooling	Air-cooled	Dynamo	200 watt three-phase
Cubic capacity	1,971 cc	Oil change	Every 3,000 miles
Compression ratio	8:1	Wheelbase	2.45 m (8 ft)
DIN performance	100 hp at 5,000 rpm	Track front/rear	1.33.5/1.37.5 m (52.5"/54")
Maximum torque	16 mkg at 3,500 rpm	Length	3.98.5 m (13'1")
0-60 mph	10.5 sec.	Width	1.65 m (5'5")
Top speed	120 mph	Height	1.23 m (4'1")
Fuel consumption	23–28 mph on super grade	Unladen weight	950 kg (2,090 lb)
Tank capacity	17 gallons	Load capacity	270 kg (594 lb)
Gearbox	Five-speed floor change	Weight-power ratio	10.8 per DIN horse power
Brakes	Four servo discs	Price ex works	13,760 Marks
Tyres	Fifteen-inch radials	Road tax	288 Marks per annum

Slaughter of innocents on roads grows

Frankfurter Rundschau

Dusseldorf Transport Minister Horst-Ludwig Riemer is so alarmed by the increasing number of schoolchildren killed and injured on the roads that he has issued a special appeal.

The growing number of accident victims between the ages of six and fifteen does not correspond to the general trend. Since 1964 the number of schoolchildren killed on the roads has increased by thirty per cent, as against a 13.5-per-cent increase overall. The same disproportion comes to light when the number of injured are compared.

In 1964 a total of 1,038 children of school age died on the roads of this country. Gradual increases up to and including 1969 were followed by a meteoric rise.

In 1970 there were 1,435 deaths and 51,500 injuries in this age group and although the number of deaths fell to 1,351 and the number of injuries by 700 in 1971 children of school age continue to be in most danger in traffic.

Hans Wallenwecher

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 6 January 1973)

Motor insurers analyse crash statistics

Motor insurers go into details of accidents that occur during turning or lane-changing in their latest analysis of accident statistics. Like previous reports it is based on the evaluation of accident claim forms.

According to HUK, the Federal Republic motor insurers association, categories predominate in this sample. They are turning left (i.e. across the crown of the road), which accounts for 42.8 per cent of accidents analysed, turning into or out of a drive accounting for a further 31 per cent.

U-turns and lane-changes were involved in 8.3 and 7.8 per cent of the accident sample respectively.

Mistakes on the driver's part were to blame in 30.4 per cent of cases reviewed. A breakdown according to category of vehicle reveals that a disproportionately large number of commercial and articulated vehicles are involved in turning accidents.

Pedestrians were involved in 12.[illegible] per cent of the cases evaluated, cyclists and motor-cyclists in a further 12.8 and [illegible] per cent respectively.

Pedestrians, cyclists and other motorists sustaining injuries as a result of the accident shared the blame in 41.5 per cent of cases. This will be partly because they were not expecting the vehicle in question to turn or change lane.

Poor road signs or other street furniture and traffic facilities would not appear to bear the slightest responsibility for accidents, but the report cannot claim to be comprehensive. It deals only with accidents for which insurance claims were submitted.

Defective vehicles or poorly secured loads likewise accounted for a mere [illegible] per cent of accidents.

Bad weather also plays a relatively minor role as a contributory factor, being partly to blame in 10.8 per cent of cases. Snow, rain and fog played their part. Black ice was less significant.

56.9 per cent of the accidents examined occurred at speeds of fifteen miles an hour and less. A further 36.4 per cent occurred at speeds of between fifteen and thirty miles per hour, the remainder at higher speeds.

Drunken driving was involved in only 3.6 per cent of this category of accident, the average for all categories of traffic accident being 7.4 per cent.

Last but not least the statistics reveal that motorists over the age of [illegible] increasingly tend to be involved in accidents of this kind.

(Handelsblatt, 18 January 1973)

■ ENVIRONMENT

Pollution survey names offenders

Contrary to past assumptions tall factory chimneys by no means solve the problem of atmosphere pollution in the immediate vicinity of industrial sites.

At petrochemical works in the Cologne area 37 per cent of industrial gases released into the atmosphere escape at various stages of the production process all over the works.

Forty-five per cent of these organic gases are emitted from points less than ten metres (32.81 feet) above ground-level. Eighty-four per cent emerge from points less than twenty metres (65.62 feet) above the ground.

For pollution specialists this is one of the more surprising findings of several years of pioneering research conducted by the Cologne factory inspection authorities in conjunction with the Rhenish TÜV, the independent body responsible among other things for the two-year compulsory roadworthiness tests on motor vehicles.

An interim report on the research programme has just been published by the North Rhine-Westphalian Ministry of Labour.

Since 1969 a systematic survey of all sources of atmospheric pollution has been conducted in Cologne, the first city in the country to carry out so comprehensive a programme.

Industrial polluters are recorded individually in terms of capacity and composition of the gases they release into the atmosphere. Motor vehicles and household consumers are assessed statistically on the basis of cross-section checks.

On the basis of the data thus collected a pollution chart has been compiled for the entire region. It indicates the principal offenders and the composition of pollution, varying as it does by day and night and in accordance with population density and industrial location.

Once the Cologne chart has been completed it is to be kept up-to-date and a similar scheme introduced in Oberhausen. Other Federal states are also to follow suit.

One result that is already apparent is that the interim report settles once and for all arguments as to who are the main offenders in atmospheric pollution.

ADAC, the motoring organisation, claimed for instance that domestic heating was responsible for 25 per cent of atmospheric pollution in this country, motor vehicles for a mere forty per cent.

The Federal Institute of Political Education on the other hand reckoned that road traffic accounted for sixty per cent of atmospheric pollution, domestic heating for only six per cent.

The Cologne figures prove that the two are as different as chalk and cheese. Exhaust fumes emitted by domestic consumers, motor vehicles and industry contain ten different components. Trade and industrial pollution of the atmosphere can draw on more than 300 different toxins.

What is more, the proportion of pollution accounted for by heating and motor traffic declines at night, and while heating is an insignificant offender in summer motor vehicles are the principal offenders in city centres with their tall buildings and narrow streets.

Hartwig Suhrbier

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 12 January 1973)

Elbe outpollutes the Rhine

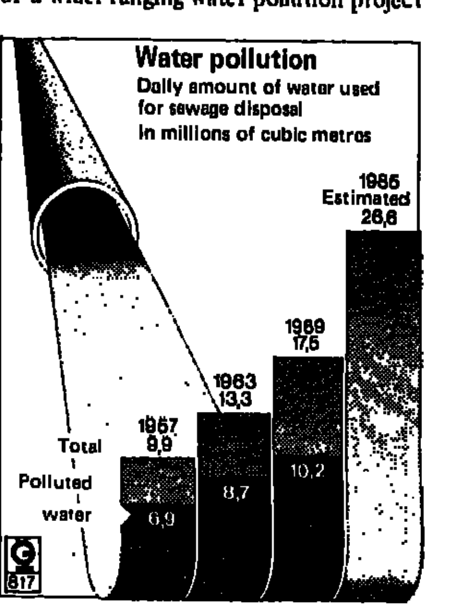
Hamburger Abendblatt

The Elbe is far more seriously polluted than the Rhine, which has hitherto been rated the dirtiest river in Europe. The latest research results indicate that the Elbe ranks as this country's principal offender, particularly in view of the concentrations of mercury and lead compounds pumped into the river as industrial effluent.

This alarming news item is based on surveys conducted by the sediment research laboratory of Heidelberg University.

K. Banat, U. Förstner and G. Müller of Heidelberg have analysed samples taken from the banks of major rivers in this country, paying particular attention to the concentration of heavy metals.

The research programme formed part of a wider-ranging water pollution project and was financed in part by the Federal Ministry of the Interior.



The Elbe samples are runners-up in their concentration of cadmium and zinc, particularly toxic heavy metals. In comparison with the concentration found in natural stone the Elbe's mercury and lead count is twenty times the normal figure, whereas the cadmium count is 100 times the normal rate.

The Elbe comes fourth in the league stakes for nickel and cobalt pollution, fifth for copper and sixth for chromium.

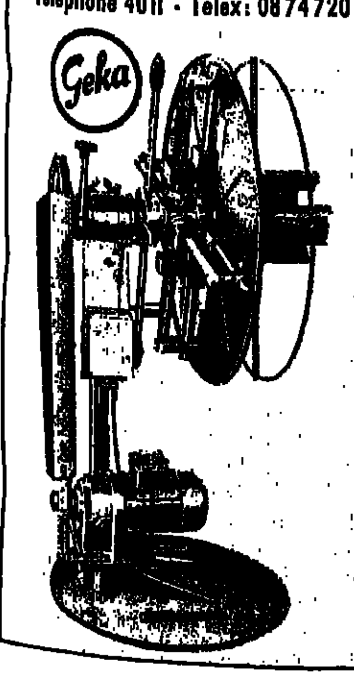
The Heidelberg research team emphasise that the precise danger levels for concentrations of heavy metals are not known. The levels at which the water is unfit for human consumption and fish caught in it also inedible are likewise largely unknown.

As regards cadmium a legal maximum has been specified for foodstuffs but it too is somewhat arbitrary: 0.5 milligrammes per kilogramme.

The problem of cadmium poisoning is a serious one. Once cadmium has found its way into the body it is there either for good or for a very long time. This is why instances of serious cadmium poisoning are virtually incurable.

Cadmium is pumped into the waterways by various firms processing zinc. A fair amount of the toxic effluent accounting for the level of pollution probably hails from factories in Czechoslovakia and the GDR.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 9 January 1973)









■ THE LEARNING WORLD

German lessons are an important aspect of cultural affairs programme

The writer of this article spent many years abroad in the diplomatic service. His findings are based inter alia on an interview with the head of the Goethe Institute, Herr von Herwarth.

German courses arranged by the Goethe Institute in Berlin are in jeopardy as foreign students can no longer afford to pay the increased fees. Similar reports are coming in from other Goethe Institutes in the Federal Republic.

But in view of the steady increase in prices generally a rise in the fees charged by the Goethe Institute is inevitable if they are to cover all expenses on the home front.

But unfortunately there is another danger to be considered alongside that caused by the rise in fees. If students from a particular group of countries withdrew for political reasons, Herr von Herwarth, the head of the Goethe Institute, claimed, many branches could be forced to close down entirely even though the number of students might drop by only ten per cent.

It is well-known that the Goethe Institute has been conducting negotiations with the authorities to obtain the promise that the State will step in and cover any losses resulting from risks of this type.

The future of the German courses cannot be guaranteed without financial aid of this type. But the State will only intervene if important general interests are at stake.

I asked Herr von Herwarth to estimate the value of the work done in the language courses of the twenty Goethe Institutes in the Federal Republic compared with the courses offered by the almost 120 branches abroad.

He gave a clear answer. The work done during language courses at home branches is particularly intensive, he said. The courses last all day and experienced teachers well-versed in modern methods are available.

One of the major differences is that students really want to learn German thoroughly. Many students at the foreign branches attend evening classes there in order to learn just enough German to speak it colloquially.

Evening classes arranged by Goethe Institutes abroad often end up with fewer students than first began the courses. This is not true of the language courses arranged by branches in the Federal Republic. They are as well-attended at the end as they are at the beginning.

This positive assessment of language courses arranged by branches in this country will be shared by anyone who has had contact with the students. The linguistic progress made during the two months the course usually lasts is indeed remarkable.

The negotiations between the Goethe Institute and the authorities have still not been concluded. From remarks made by von Herwarth it seems there is widespread concern that financial support will be linked with the demand to restrict courses to students who will one day teach at schools abroad and members of similar professions who will spread the German language.

Members of the Goethe Institute justifiably ask whether demands of this type would not jeopardise the success of their language work. They believe that selecting applicants could mean debarring such foreigners who might otherwise have felt called upon to inform their fellow-countrymen of German cultural values at a later date. But without knowledge of the German language and German culture they will be unable to do so.

Von Herwarth states that he had once studied the French language when in France as a young student and he had gained a strong affection for French culture. Because of his own experiences at that time, he does not believe it right to close language courses to young foreigners who want to go to the effort of learning the German language for pleasure.

These objections seem all the more justified recently as the lively discussion about the aims and methods of cultural policy abroad appears to have all but forgotten the simple fact that to really penetrate the culture of a nation it is necessary to master its language and that therefore our best friends abroad are those who speak our language.

At any rate, discussions about our cultural policy abroad have centred on other topics. Our cultural policy abroad must not be elitist, it has been claimed, and it must provide foreigners with a picture of modern Germany.

Cultural policy must be above all a "policy of exchange" and must foster "international social policy", to use only a couple of the favourite catchwords.

If encouraging the German language was ever mentioned, it usually came last on the list and was then often referred to in a critical tone. "Language is the agent and not the aim of our cultural activities abroad," many writers stated, as if more thorough-going cultural work was possible abroad without providing the necessary basis for people to learn the language.

But there have recently been welcome indications that the priorities of our cultural programme abroad have switched back in favour of language. The recently-published intermediate report of the Bundestag committee probing the whole subject of cultural policy abroad mentions the need of encouraging language teaching even though other factors, mainly those of an administrative nature, stand in the foreground.

It cannot be denied that cultural policy must to a considerable extent be a "policy of exchange" as the living conditions of the Western countries at least are growing steadily similar.

Other countries are therefore confronted with similar social, sociological and economic problems as the Federal Republic. We and the other countries can only profit from a dialogue.

That is correct, but we must not forget that this necessary exchange of experiences and opinions has long been occurring in many sectors without State encouragement and control. It has been proceeding from person to person and from organisation to organisation.

The situation is different where learning a language is concerned. This is a more tedious process than the exchange of thoughts and experiences and therefore requires emphatic support.

Backing this is worthwhile as the desire to learn German has grown in recent years. A number of factors have contributed to this trend. Firstly, there is the flood of foreign workers and tourists from abroad.

Many people in the developing nations also tend to choose German in preference to other foreign languages as we have the good fortune not to bear the stigma of being colonialists.

The economic influence emanating from Central Europe, where ninety million people speak German, also plays a major role.

The chances of encouraging people to learn the German language have increased as German has become easier to learn. Teaching methods are more advanced than they once were and when foreign students look at German texts they will no longer be confronted with the convoluted sentence structures Mark Twain once vented his irony on as a deterrent against learning the German language.

When encouraging people to learn German, those persons responsible for our cultural policy abroad must therefore take all substance from the myth that German is a difficult language.

Two objections can often be heard. One of them claims that the encouragement of the German language has been neglected as it has been able to chalk up many major successes in recent years by being recognised abroad.

German is recognised as an official language within the Common Market and at many international conferences. Where this is not yet the case, champions of the argument claim, speakers of the German language are emphatically laying their claims for recognition.

This may be true, but the establishment of the German language as an official language is intended primarily to facilitate the work of delegations from the German-speaking States. It does not mean to say that more foreigners are suddenly wanting to learn German.

The other objection is that by backing the German language too emphatically we automatically give foreigners the impression of adopting the same aggressive policies in the linguistic sphere as we have adopted in other sectors. Cries of linguistic imperialism are being raised.

It is remarkable that doubts of this type have not been expressed in those places where they might have been justified such as when influence on sections of a foreign country's economy have been rather impetuous.

Protests have been loudest in the linguistic sector although no other sector is more appropriate for increasing cultural links and fostering understanding and friendship among nations than that of learning a language.

Karl Gemünd

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 19 January 1973)

Picture education is the thing of the future

Are the millenia of written culture approaching their end? Will the human race communicate by means of pictures in future, similar to many primitive races and early civilisations?

A conference held in Munich set a milestone in the process of reorientation that has set in on the communication and education system. Experts from the fields of science, industry and politics at the first Visodata Conference discussed the large-scale systematic use of technologically communicated information in the public, industrial and private education and training sectors. It was the first time this had occurred on an international basis.

It is now exactly ten years since words like "teaching machine" and "programmed education" first cropped up in this country, causing considerable concern among provincial educationalists.

Professor Schorb, chairman of the Visodata Conference and head of the Munich State Institute for Educational Planning and Research, referred to this anniversary and claimed that the epoch-making mood of that era has long faded. Today we know that building up the technological education systems of the future will take at least another ten years, he said.

The Visodata Conference was planned in order to collect and collate the data for this aim. The Conference appointed groups of experts who will compile a general study in the next few years.

The initial priority is to discover the actual extent of the demand for technically-communicated information in all public and private sectors. A centre for technical information programmes can later be linked with the Visodata Conference. Data networks and the cable television scheme of the future can also be employed.

Delegates at the Munich conference could only guess at the final form of this planned large-scale system of educational technology. Present-day examples coming into this category include the Lufthansa teaching cockpit, the educational programmes transmitted by the Bavarian Broadcasting Service in conjunction with other media and a teach-yourself centre developed by the Munich Film and Education Institute at the instigation of the Education and Science Ministry.

It contains written information, points to other media, provides descriptions of experiments and also provides a comprehensive survey of general knowledge. The audiovisual components of the teaching programme are recorded on cassettes and they consist of scenes in cartoon and realistic form.

When producing software of this type, an important aim is "visualisation", the graphic and stylistic presentation with a view to a future system of picture language.

The further development of comic strips and the pictograms employed at airports and the Munich Olympics could lead to a generally comprehensible new language that can be easily learned.

Written language only reaches a small section of the community today, Professor Freudenfeld of the Industrial Institute claimed. In future, the masses will turn more and more to audiovisual media, thus helping to create a new type of relationship between words and pictures as carriers of information.

Freudenfeld, who once used to write for radio, also pointed out that it is hard in our totally pictorial world to differentiate between whether we have come up with an idea off our own bat or have unconsciously taken it over from television, which he describes as the leading medium of our age. The media are thus given full scope for manipulation.

Alarmed by such prospects, a team of experts under Professor Rainer Fuchs tried to examine the conditions for what they dubbed "human study". It was repeatedly claimed that the human factor had been ignored in discussions about "teaching machines".

The congress said it expected Visodata to contribute to speedier European integration. The right to work where one pleases is now available to all 253 million persons living in Common Market countries and internal European migration will probably increase.

Children of school age will be one of the main groups affected. If their education is not to suffer when they move around Europe with their parents, audiovisual systems must be employed to

Continued on page 11

■ THE ARTS

Herzog and Kinski look back with excessive anger

Director Werner Herzog has always been an outsider where the *Junger Deutscher Film* group is concerned since his *Lebenszeichen* (Signs of life). And now little is heard of this group of cinematic progressives.

One aspect of the outsider which stood out in Herzog's work was that he always set his films on islands or somewhere else on the periphery of civilisation, avoiding usual social trends and laying the accent fairly and squarely on the exceptional situation.

Nor was it merely by chance that this astonishingly unerring loner took much of his material from Spanish cultural circles. Herzog's ambitions reached high and they always have done. In many of his scenic arrangements we can see much of the classic Buñuel touch, and this also comes out in the certain tendency towards parable.

The latest production *Aguirre der Zorn Gottes* was broadcast by the first television channel, but even before this he surprised and to a certain extent embarrassed his following with the strange film *Auch Zwerge haben klein angefangen* (Even dwarfs started in a small way).

Many of his audience and critics were unable to make anything of this film and mistakenly took the manic obsession with grimaces as a morbid preoccupation with the horrific.

This film with its ranting pygmies was a didactic piece dealing with the subject of what happens when people whose situation is tightly circumscribed are *suddenly* released without any transitional period. Herzog's answer was typically Goyaesque, though others accused it of having fascistic tendencies.

Herzog remained true to his darker temperament and moved to the primaeval forests on the upper slopes of the Amazon in Peru for *Aguirre, der Zorn Gottes* (Aguirre, God's Wrath) the consistent continuation of his concept of the extraordinary situation and its consequences.

Yet the powerful river, the jungle, the occasionally operatic historical costumery are a danger to the film.

There is in the not too distant history of the cinema an example of where wild scenery seems so closely connected with the costumes that the human being, as an actor, is left there where he belongs, in the centre of things. The Japanese know how to do this and it is good cinema.

In the colossal film *Aguirre* with its subject matter of gold-hungry Spanish adventurers sent out by Pizarro to find the legendary Eldorado and plunder it the central motif sometimes gets lost.

Presumably Herzog wanted to produce another parable, although perhaps he did not state this so expressly as to call it a particular thesis. But a parable may have been what he had in mind when he took the extant diary of a monk describing this expedition of robbers and the horrific and pitiable manner in which it failed.

The film contains a number of scenes which give a clue to what it is all about. Under the oppressive and asphyxiating power of a murderously rich landscape of water and floods the exploration which was bent on nihilism from the start collapses. The episodes from the horrific history of the conquistadores in the northern part of South America, however, are dwarfed by the grandiose documentary of the natural landscape.

The camera is not mobile and imaginative enough to avoid this. Perhaps the director, too, is not up to coordinating the Nature, the crowd scenes and the heart of the film.

The consistency of the theme of the gradual breakdown of order in the expedition is not kept up dramatically.

Certain aspects such as the fabulous banquet of the Emperor of Eldorado, or the rats leaving the raft or the grandiose invasion of small lemur-like monkeys, which almost take over the raft on which members of the expedition are navigating the river after nearly all of them – the Spaniards and their Indian slaves – have fallen prey to the arrows of the primitive jungle dwellers or to sicknesses take on in the final part that Buñuel-like paradigmatic force which we miss in the first part.

The script turns on the moment of usurpation described in the monk's diary when power is grabbed by a half mad desperado and misanthropist, the Aguirre of the title, who understands his existence and his ragings as being a scourge of God's wrath.

Herzog chose for the title role a German actor who has become type-cast as a raver, Klaus Kinski. However much the facial features and the Medusa stare of Kinski may fit this role the ravings of the be-helmeted madman are incapable of expressing the potential intellectual content of the film.

God's wrath, that paroxysm of a man possessed, an evil man in the metaphysical sense who raves at the members of this expedition lusting after gold and conversions, leading right into God's court of judgment – this is almost thrown away. Kinski's raving has too much of the theatrical in it. It is the rage of an actor, not a god.

This film is to be shown in 'art' cinemas in Cologne and other major cities following its premiere on television. It is possible that on the big screen many of the faults that appeared so disturbing on the small screen will not be so glaring.

One outstanding feature of the film is the interesting portraits of the cast, many of whom are South American, including the two women Indian slaves. But even these lack perfection, not being given sufficient detail, probably because of poor lighting.

Herzog is to be respected for avoiding the obvious lure of Hollywood clichés and for taking as his dramatic framework an epic narrator.

Karl Korn

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 19 January 1973)

Klaus Kinski as Lope de Aguirre (Photo: Hessischer Rundfunk)

Continued from page 10

break down barriers of language and culture.

The Visodata Conference in Munich between 18 and 24 January is to be followed up by a European Council symposium on the use of media in schools. Educationalists, scientists and technicians from 21 countries will meet for the first time to discuss their previous experiences in this sector and incorporate the conference's findings into the educational policies of their particular countries.

Karl Stankiewitz

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 17 January 1973)

Werner Hinz – a man for all roles

He studied under Max Reinhardt at Reinhardt's school of dramatic art. His debut in the German theatre was in Berlin, typically in a Frank Wedekind play *Frühlingserwachen*.

After two years with Reinhardt he came to Hamburg for the first time. From there he moved to the most illustrious stages in what was then called the provinces. He spent three years in Darmstadt when Darmstadt was one of the leading theatrical centres in Germany.

In Berlin Werner Hinz, who has just celebrated his seventieth birthday, was among one of the most illustrious line-ups at the old Volksbühne on Bülowplatz. Then he returned to Hamburg and became recognised as one of the most interesting and versatile of German actors, especially when Fehling was the producer.

After the War he served for several years in Berlin again. Bert Brecht called on Werner Hinz when *Mutter Courage* was produced for the first time in Germany. Hinz played the padre, an unforgettable role.

From Berlin he moved to Zürich and Munich and returned to Hamburg for the third time. And in Hamburg he has been almost a permanent fixture for close on twenty years. He is one of the mainstays of the Schauspielhaus – a reliable actor in every way. He occasionally flits off to take Vienna by storm or allow other parts of the Federal Republic to benefit from his acting ability, but his home is now by the Elbe.

It is hard to think of a major role this talented actor has not played – and for a jack-of-all-roles he has mastered many of them. He has played great heroes such as Kreon in *Oedipus* and Achilles in Kleist's *Penthesilea*. Yet he still managed to be one of the most despicable Mack the Knifes ever. He has done his time in *Charly's Aunt* and danced, sung and jested in the role of Siegismund in *Weisser Rössel*. He also took the lead in Kleist's *Prinz von Homburg* briefly.

Of the many Wehrhahns we have seen I cannot think of many who could match Hinz' stupendously and comically cold playing of the role. I remember his Malvolio – so dumb and so lovable. Having seen Hinz play the role, one did not want to see it played by anyone else.

There does not seem to be a role he cannot fill. In the film he played the "Young Fritz" opposite Emil Jannings' soldier king and he took the role of Kaiser Wilhelm II, resembling the Kaiser to an incredible extent.

I always considered Hinz at his best when he was getting to grips with a Wedekind play. When he played Scholz in *Der Marquis von Keith* he almost eclipsed Gustaf Gründgens in the title role, as the two of them were thrown together unforgettably in this comedy of swindlers. They acted together and competed against each other ideally.

Speech is Hinz' forte. He can impress dialogue with his own stamp fairly and squarely on the minds of his audience. He is distinguished by the fact that even when he acts in a kind of *gemütlich* role, such as the Captain of Köpenick for instance, he appears to express *Ungemütlichkeit*.

He is blessed with innate artificiality, a joy at dissimulation and a great curiosity about what makes men tick – he has so to speak the very best in the way of *Verfremdungseffekt* (alienation effect) which became part of him as soon as his acting career began. Very few actors are so lucky.

Yet he was not always so good. He suffered periods in his career when strangely weaknesses began to appear. Once or twice he seemed about to fade. But with maturity he seems to have become more powerful, more sensitive, more certain and more magnificent.

The way he put over comedy with a mixture of horror in *Home*, dealing with old age, with enchanting insight was unforgettable and inimitable.

On the eve of his birthday he was involved in a premiere of Sternheim's *1913*. To his credit the only celebration he made of his birthday was to go on stage and give a first-class performance. Good luck to Werner Hinz. May he go on entertaining us for years to come.

Friedrich Luft

(Die Welt, 18 January 1973)

(Photo: dpa)

■ MEDICINE

Doctors examine the results of lead poisoning

DIE WELT

A large section of the population of indistrial conurbations have quantities of lead in their organism though they cannot be classified medically as chronically or even acutely sick.

But the store of lead particles accumulated when inhaling waste gases or eating contaminated food can suddenly be set free during infections or even situations of stress and cause serious poisoning.

This claim was made at a congress organised by the Butjadingen Medical Association, a branch of the Wilhelmshaven Medical Chamber, at Nordenham, a small town near the mouth of the Weser.

The most important item on the agenda was the report on an examination of almost 1,600 children living around the Preussag steelworks in the Lower Saxony town.

News that sixteen cows had died of lead poisoning as a result of the particles emitted by the chimneys of the Preussag works roused public attention twelve months ago. The slaughter prompted a practical environmental protection scheme that is unique both in its type and extent.

A group of doctors belonging to the Butjadingen Medical Association decided off their own bat to examine 1,600 children living in the vicinity of the steelworks to see effects lead particles had on the human organism and find methods of combating the threat this form of pollution posed in industrial areas.

All doctors and auxiliary staff cooperating in the scheme did so in their free time and without remuneration. When their findings were complete they decided to organise a congress in Norderham.

They invited representatives of scientific institutions from throughout the Federal Republic, the staff of the Lower Saxony authorities responsible for health and pollution and members of industry and conservationist organisations.

As paradoxial as it may sound, their results were as reassuring as they were disquieting. They were reassuring as the extensive examination did not reveal a single case of acute lead poisoning.

They were disquieting as the world of medicine is still unable to state for sure the amount of lead that the human organism can cope without breaking down.

The children, aged between one and eight, had their hands and knees X-rayed in Nordenham hospital. More than three thousand X-ray photographs were examined and analysed.

The doctors found that 34 of the children examined had suffered bone deformities and the effects of pollution could be clearly seen on the X-ray screen, in the form of rings.

"We believe that lead acts as a stimulus to the increased formation of bone and cartilage," a pediatrician taking part in the examination stated in order to explain the write rings showing up on the X-ray photographs. "The lead itself could also have accumulated there."

Another four hundred children had lesser deformities which could not be attributed for certain to the effects of lead pollution. No divergences from the norm were observed in the other 1,016 children from the area threatened by pollution.

Previous medical research has shown that such a degree of lead content in body has no consequences at first, one of the doctors stated. The rings are the result of a deposit effect that occurs when the liver and kidneys are no longer able to excrete the lead. The deposits can shrink without harm to the body over a number of years.

But a person's health is threatened when situations of stress mobilise these deposits and the lead cannot be excreted by the organs. Lead possoning would then occur and could in extreme cases result in death.

The fieldwork conducted by the Butjadingen doctors went beyound X-ray analyses. Hair was taken from the children's heads and examined in special laboratories in the Federal Republic and the United States with the help of atom absorption spectography.

The findings here largely coincided with the results gained from the X-ray examination. A high lead content was found in 38 of the hair samples, 389 samples had an above-average lead content and 1,071 had a minimal amount, if any. Lead and urine examinations conducted by the Federal Health Bureau in Berlin resulted in similar figures.

The doctors in Butjadingen will now analyse some six thousand questionnaires on the nutrition and habits of the children examined. A far more comprehensive examination of adults is also planned.

Acting independently of the Butjadingen Medical Association, the Lower Saxony Welfare Ministry last year measured the amount of harmful substances in the air around Nordenham and examined their effect on local inhabitants, animals, vegetation, water and the soil.

The results of this survey, probably the most comprehensive of its type ever to have been conducted in Europe, show that the amount of waste gases discharged in the control area do not exceed the official toleration level.

Inhabitants consume most of the harmful particles in their food and not through inhalation. Experts at the Ministry therefore call upon people not to eat any fruit, vegetables or meat produced within a two kilometre radius of the Preussag works — the area covered by the Butjadingen doctors in their survey — until a number of questions have been answered and the current control examinations brought to a conclusio.

Claus-Werner Caro

(Die Welt, 13 January 1973)



Monitoring system for Peking hospital

One of the largest clinics in Peking is to be the future home of the gift which the Bo delegation presented to their Chinese hosts on the occasion of the establishment diplomatic relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the People Republic of China: a complete system for continuous and simultaneous ele tronic monitoring of six critically ill patients. This Siemens system consists six individual instruments which, installed at the patient's bedside, register the m vital bodily functions — such as cardiac action, pulse, temperature, respiration pass on the data to the central control position, and automatically trigger an alarm the event of danger.

(Photo: Siem

Doctors demand more aid for the victims of facial injuries

Doctors at Hornheide hospital near Münster have drawn up a prototype plan for the rehabilitation of patients with facial injuries. The staff of this specialist clinic, opened forty years ago and financed by social insurence schemes, the university and the local authority, claim that people with facial injuries as a result of accident or illness are still treated like lepers.

These people suffer mental depression because of their conspicuous disfigurement and are also discriminated against in their professional and social life because of the lack of understanding, not to say outright rejection, on the part of those around them.

Professor Franz Ehring of the dermatology section and Dr Hubert Drepper of the facial surgery department cannot understand why people with facial injuries are not provided with a grant to help them become reintegrated into the working world.

They believe that people with serious facial injuries should be given the same help as other handicapped persons. The long and tedious course of treatment required for facial injuries must no given up merely because patients ca afford the cost.

Doctors at the Hornheide hospita believe that an increase in the numb plastic surgery centres is indispend. The opportunities offered by epith and remedial surgery (both of which available at Hornheide) are not adequ ly well-known to the public.

The hospital can accommodate patients at a time. People with injuries come from all over the Fe Republic for treatment at this spec clinic and the waiting list is anything to twelve months long.

The hospital scheme aims at rehabilitation of the patient from very beginning of treatment. Individ diagnosis, treatment and post-operati care are intended to eliminate or av behavioural disorders and depression.

Dr Depper illustrated the hospit method by pointing out the varyi treatment given to two young men wi similar facial damage, given cosme treatment.

The other young patient was lively a amicable and doctors decided to leave th small facial scars alone, despite the co to "beauty", and preserve the expressi ness of his mouth and eyes.

Doctors at the clinic would li patients to profit from past experien in the field of plastic surgery but th would demand more space and mo staff. The doctors state that it would the be possible to employ social worke psychotherapists and career advisers to greater extent.

Up to now no widescale application of occupational therapy has been possible. The small hospital school, run by an elementary school headmaster, must be extended if the education of every schoolchild on a long course of treatment is not to suffer.

Doctors believe that the children would face a further handicap if they failed to pass their examinations after bein discharged from hospital and were the separated from their former classmates.

Raimund von Witzleben

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 16 January 1973)

New methods of dealing with fractured bones

Dr Fritz Lechner, head physician at Garmisch-Partenkirchen hospital, has spent much of his spare time during the past three years at the old wash-house of the now-closed hospital in Kainzenbad. There he gives rabbits and sheep a new, sensational course of treatment.

Dr Lechner develop this cure with the help of Munich physicist Werner Kraus. The two scientists gradually built up a process using weak electric stimuli to help the body repair largely destroyed bones in complicated cases.

Dr Lechner plans to use his method to treat serious fractures that will rarely respond to conventional treatment as well as fractures of complicated fractures of bones that have already been subject to pathological changes.

The method has already been tested on some one hundred patients, including a number of hopeless cases", to use Dr Lechner's expression, who would otherwise have had a limb amputated.

The broken bone is nailed as usual but the pin contains a coil. The injured limp is surrounded by another coil. An impulse in sent to the bone by means of induction.

Dr Lechner claims that this impulse is equivalent to the natural charges within they body which are interrupted when a bone is broken. Werner Kraus' Munich institute plans to supply other hospitals with this equipment during the course of the year.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 10 January 1973)

■ EDUCATION

Accommodation problem still bedevils students



Many students are faced by the serious problem of the steadily worsening accommodation situation as the old city centres with their typical student flats increasingly fall victim to redevelopment schemes.

The functional new apartment blocks in the suburbs give little scope for sub-letting and many landlords prefer to take in foreign workers anyway as they bring more money.

Private rooms in Berlin cost between 100 and 130 Marks a month to rent in 1966. By 1972 average rents rose to between 150 and 200 Marks. The situation is no different in Hamburg, Munich or Bonn.

Central heating and hot running water are considered luxuries and rooms offering these facilities are usually let at more than two hundred Marks a month.

Of course, some offers of rented accommodation are cheaper but these are frequently linked with the proviso that the tenant does not smoke, wash shirts and underwear in the sink or receive visitors of the opposite sex. It is not surprising that students join together to rent apartments or even whole houses.

Munich provides a good example of how advanced this trend has become. As many as 44 per cent of the city's students rented rooms in 1963. By 1971 this figure dropped to 18.3 per cent.

At the same time, the varying entry regulations at the different universities has led to a drop in the number of students who could study in their home town. Only 15.5 per cent of Munich students lived at home in 1971. In 1963 it was still as high as 36.3 per cent.

Many students have moved out into the country. They can be found in small villages within a twenty or thirty kilometre radius of university towns such as Marburg, Göttingen, Tübingen or Stuttgart.

But only students with their own means of transport can take advantage of this opportunity, especially as many of these villages are only served by buses twice a day.

Student hostels or student flats in the vicinity of the university would be an ideal solution. Some five thousand new rooms were built in 1972 but student hostels still only provide sixty thousand of the approximately 587,000 students with accomodation, some twelve per cent of the total student population.

A resolution approved by the Education Ministers Conference called for at least thirty per cent of the student population to be accommodated in student hostels. An additional two hundred thousand places at least would be required if this were to be put into effect by 1975.

But it is not only accommodation shortages that reflect the student's poor position in society. There is also the question of money. Students who have to live off their parsimonious grants are in a poor financial situation.

The *Deutsches Studentenwerk* calculated that students needed at least six hundred Marks a month in the summer term of 1972 if they were to exist. By the end of the current winter semester this figure will surely have risen to 665 Marks a month.

This figure calculates 150 Marks for accommodation, 195 Marks for food, 28 Marks for local transport, 109 Marks for clothing and repairs, 17 Marks for toiletries, 50 Marks for educational aids, 41 Marks for trips home, postage and telephone calls and 75 Marks for extras such as newspapers.

The educational periodical *Aspekte* conducted a survey during the summer months of 1972 and found that a student's cost of living in the smaller university towns such as Münster or Tübingen amounted to 585 Marks a month. Just under seven hundred Marks a month are required in a city like Munich.

Most students' incomes lie well beneath the calculated minimum. Sums such as three hundred Marks are not uncommon. Thirty-six per cent receive State grants of up to 429 Marks a month though only 7.5 per cent live solely from this source.

"My parents are not poor enough to qualify me for a State grant and not rich enough to support me adequately," is a frequently heard complaint.

The number of students who are forced to take part-time jobs during their studies is on the increase. Whereas only 22 per cent of students worked part-time in 1964, seventy per cent need to do so nowadays. The number of jobs available for them is however dropping year by year.

Roland Kimmich

(Die Welt, 12 January 1973)

Survey of starting salaries for students

KielerNachrichten

University students who this year pass their final examinations with good grades can expect an average starting salary of some 2,100 Marks a month, according to a survey by a Dortmund advisory service.

The survey, conducted among two thousand firms of various sizes, claims that graduates of industrial engineering will receive the most — an average of 2,330 Marks a month.

Graduates of chemistry and physics lie in second and third places with an average monthly starting salary of 2,300 and 2,280 Marks respectively. Sociologists, psychologists and first-year teachers will receive 1,850 Marks a month.

The investigation also revealed that graduates of university faculties that had hit the headlines for one reason or another stood only an outside chance of obtaining a lucrative post in industry.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 17 January 1973)

Heine rejected again

A second attempt to rechristen Düsseldorf University Heinrich Heine University has failed. AStA, the general student committee, states that the Statutes Convention rejected a student resolution to this effect by 51 votes to 26 with two abstentions.

The Statutes Convention decided to retain the name University of Dusseldorf at a meeting on 6 March 1972 by 38 votes to 19 with seven abstentions.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 January 1973)

■ OUR WORLD

Drinking habits and motivations analysed

Seventy one per cent of the citizens of this country over 16 would not say no to the offer of a glass of beer or a glass of wine. Well over half the citizens in this country drink alcohol, one third take a drink daily, but the majority only once during a week. A surprising seven per cent, something like four million people are medically speaking "addicted to alcohol".

Professor Stefen Wieser, a Bremen neurologist, working together with the Institute for Motivational Research has made a study of the drinking habits of the people of this country. His work is to be published shortly.

Following basic survey rules 1,024 people were questioned about their alcohol drinking habits, people from all levels of society and from all over the country. The study went in depth into what drives people to take a drink and

Münchner Merkur

how drink, the most common form of drug-taking in the world, can be resisted.

A startling fact that this survey did reveal was that the family acts in so many cases as the culprit in drinking habits. Most of the people who had taken to drink in a disastrous manner did not start drinking under the bedsheets alone at night or in some quiet corner where they could go undetected, but openly and with the complete agreement of their parents in the dining or living room. And this is true when a massive 67 per cent of parents look upon alcohol as something "dangerous and little to be desired", something that should be kept away from the children.

The surprising fact is that a large majority of people who consume excessive quantities of alcohol come from families that would be regarded as a united family and not from families that are split in some way or another. This sort of family is traditionally looked upon as being psychologically disturbed to some extent and therefore more likely to take to drink.

As explanation of this state of affairs two theories are put forward. A family that comprises only of the mother and her children would be regarded as a split family, and it is true to say that women have sceptical attitudes towards alcohol all round, more so than men and they influence their children along these lines.

In the united family there is the ritual of "Daddy's evening drink", which inevitably leads to "let the little one have a taste".

The survey revealed that three per cent of those questioned had their first taste of drink at the tender age of six. But on average people in this country claim that they had their first taste of alcohol about the age of twelve. Many said that they felt "a bit worse for drink" for the first time about eighteen years of age. More



(Photo: Marianne von der Lan

than half the adults questioned regarded themselves as quite definitely drinkers and rejected categorically any idea of practising total abstinence.

Only between four and five per cent had nothing to do with alcohol whatsoever. For this they were regarded by their colleagues and friends as "the odd man out" or "a comical chap" or "not normal".

Experts found a surprising development when asking people where they drank. Most of then drank at home sitting comfortably in a settee watching television and not as used to be the case in the local pub. Only 25 per cent said they would go out of the house for a beer.

And the view that many had a drink to pep them up, to make them feel in a good mood was also knocked on the head. Only one per cent said that they took a drink to shake off the blues, to put them in a good mood. Two per cent said they took a drink for the sake of their health. Remarks such as: "A glass of schnapps is good for you:" or "I felt a cold coming on" were common.

Six per cent said that they were plagued with an unquenchable thirst and twelve per cent said they had drinks whilst watching television. "I always had a drink when watching television," these said.

Most, 45 per cent, said they took a drink after work and with friends fo[r no] particular reason.

Facts and fantasy were well and t[ruly] mixed with some drinkers. Thirty [...] per cent would prefer wine, 35 per [cent] would take beer and 35 per c[ent] would like to take to the hard [...] spirits. Twenty five per cent would li[ke to] drink *sekt* but in reality 65 per [cent] drank beer.

And the survey confirmed geograp[hical] concepts as far as drinking is concer[ned]. In the North hard spirits were favo[ured]. In Bavaria it was beer and in the south [...] of the country wine naturally came to[p].

Socially speaking whisky wa[s the] favoured drink. Most people cons[idered] that 'high society' drank w[hisky]. Professor Wieser said: "Perhaps du[e to] the symbol of having arrived, a symb[ol of] status. Many people drink for reas[ons of] prestige."

The Bremen research team c[ould] produce no sure-fire system for [...] the drinking habit. Professor Wieser [...] that informing the public more abou[t the] dangers of drinking and putting a s[top to] advertising would probably have [...] effect.

More should be done to work [...] programme that included propa[...] full explanations as well as pro[...] amendment to the law and fin[...] disabilities.

Thomas Wolg[...]

(Münchner Merkur, 8 January 1[973])

Pill takers

The numbers of girls between the ages of 14 and 21 in Schleswig-Holstein who regularly take The Pill has increased between 1970 and 1972 by 8.5 per cent to 17.8 per cent, according to a survey conducted by the medical records office of Kiel University.

The survey was conducted with the aid of 2,500 schoolgirls.

It was revealed that 4.3 per cent of girls in junior school, 14 percent of girls in high schools and 30 per cent in vocational training establishments took some form of anti-ovulation medicament.

The survey revealed the following breakdown of girls taking The Pill in age groups: 17.8 per cent of the 16-year-old age group took The Pill, 27.9 per cent of the 17 year olds, 46.1 per cent of the 18 year olds and 69.2 per cent of the 19-year-olds.

The Kiel institute also asked girls at the social sciences institue how many of them took The Pill. The answer: 88.9 per cent.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 15 January 1973)

Low birthrate knocks baby industries

The people of this country are dying out, the pessimists claim, and blame the Pill for this state of affairs. But experts claim that total population is not endangered by the Pill, though in the meantime industries catering for babies are having a hard time.

It ought to be said before hand that the argument that the Pill bears the entire responsibility does not ring true.

According to Dr Karl Schwarz of the Statistics Office, Wiesbaden, the situation is that most married couples are not against having children, but they want to keep the family small. If there was no Pill these couples would turn to some other method of contraception.

But whatever the reasons are, the decline in the birth rate has not yet reached rock bottom. During 1964 there were a total of 1,065,000 births registered at birth registry offices, but in 1971 that figure had fallen to 778,531. In the first half of 1972 only 365,974 babies were born, that is about 36,000 less than in the same period of the previous year.

The results of that are obvious in that six months 36,000 cots will not be needed, 36,000 prams less will be sold, hundreds of thousands fewer baby's bottles, nappies, tins of powder, creams and cards wishing the happy parents all good wishes.

The first to suffer are the hospitals and clinics. Between 1965 and 1970 as many as 19 redundant gynaecological clinics and cottage hospitals closed along with three birth clinics. Dr Hans Wegner, president of the gynaecologists association, said: "In the few months a further three birth clinics have been closed and it is certain that others will have to discontinue operating. I know a large clinic in Baden where the number of deliveries in the space of one year have dropped from 2,100 to 1,600."

This problem is not only a problem common to the Federal Republic. In America last year 206 local hospitals had to close their delivery wards.

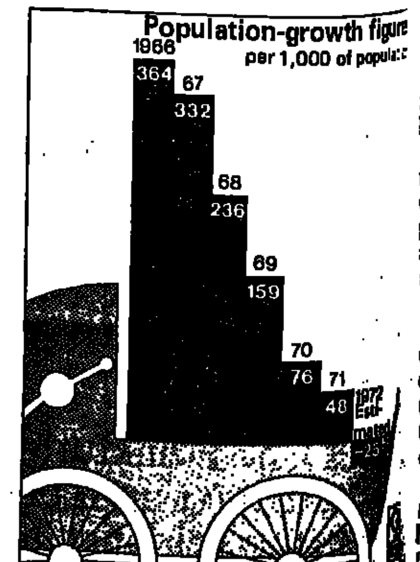
And there is also the problem of the unemployment of doctors who assist at births. Dr Wegner said: "There has had to be a redeployment of professional staff. Because of the decline in the number of women who need gynaecological care and attention gynaecologists do not have enough work."

And midwives are in a far from rosy situation. The baby slump has meant that their incomes have taken a hammering. For this reason the midwives association has asked that jobs in pre- and ante-natal clinics be made available for the association's members.

But other organisations that have devoted their services to babies are being hard hit. Producers of baby foods have been forced to diversify their efforts and produce foods for young children and juniors and for old people so as to widen the market to whom their products can have an appeal.

The magazine *Eltern* that since the decline in the numbers of births has suffered a circulation shrinkage from 1,250,000 to approximately 880,000 copies, has launched another magazine for parents of growing children entitled *Schule* in an effort to recover some of the lost readership.

Only manufacturers of baby clothes and children's toys have managed to hold



their own, mainly by introd[ucing] products of better quality. They ca[n] thank higher prices for having been [able] to hold their turnovers at a high level.

But many manufacturers of child[ren's] prams and cots have the misfortune [that] not the stork through their window [but] the bird of misfortune for they hav[e had] to go into bankruptcy.

Ladislaus Kuthy/[...]

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 6 January [1973])

■ SPORT

Handball association hits rockbottom

Dr Heinz Perleberg, one of the trainers of the GDR handball team in the fifties, trained the Federal league team of Hamburg's HSV from 1963 to 1971. In this article he goes into the state of handball in this country and the reasons why the national team is no longer what it used to be in comparison with the world's best.

The indoor handball team, forecast by both the president of the Federal Republic Handball Association and a popular daily newspaper as a potential Olympic gold medal-winner, proved a bitter disappointment in Munich.

Their praises were prematurely sung on the basis of the unprecedented amount of time and money spent on this one team. Yet their poor performance in Munich was not a slip-up; it was renewed confirmation of the continual failure of Federal Republic teams in international indoor handball championships over the past eighteen years.

In 1954 the national team were runners-up in the world indoor handball championship and a year later world champions on the full-sized pitch.

As a result hard and successful work was devoted in this country to the further development of outdoor handball, *the* German ball game par excellence. In 1959, 1963 and 1966 Federal Republic teams incontestably notched up world championship titles.

Did these successes blind the powers that be so as to render them incapable of seeing the way things were developing or was officialdom simply incompetent?

Leading handball teams in those days – the Czechs, Rumanians, Danes and Swedes, for example – concentrated exclusively on indoor handball and put in constructive and creative work on the indoor game.

International interest having flagged, the outdoor game was struck from the list of international sporting events. World championships have not been held for years.

This country, which used to lead the world in handball, has declined since 1955 from top dog to also-ran. Nowadays we merely copy what others have developed and already put into practice.

The 1961 world championship finals, for instance, marked a tactical "low" for the indoor game. As a result other countries introduced the so-called second row, which gave the game a fresh lease of life.

From 1964 on long-range scorers were much in demand in this country, dominating the game. Hard-working goal-makers of the calibre of Adolf Giele and Fritz Bahrdt were no longer regarded as quite so important a part and parcel of the national side.

This tactical approach naturally had its drawbacks. It led to increasing neglect of other aspects of the games, a shortcoming that other countries recognised and tried to take into account by means of fresh concepts.

In this country long-range pot shots remained the iron rule, though, and when Hans Günter ("Bomber") Schmidt, the top goal-scorer for many a long season, demonstratively declined a place in the prospective Olympic team six months before Munich in protest against alleged neglect of the principle that performance counts it was clear that the handball association had a number of sins of omission in coaching to answer for.

Suddenly a modern game was to be played. All positions on the pitch are of equal value. Play is to be concentrated on the outskirts of the penalty area and should it not click, in we come, the new-look second-row players proclaimed.

Club teams from this country can look back on a far better international record over the years in question. They, when all is said and done, have evolved and put into practice any number of tactical concepts.

What the handball association ought to have done is to make use of this variety and put it to meaningful and effective use. But has it done so over the years?

Gummersbach, Dankersen, Leutershausen, Göppingen and Kiel each differ in their playing techniques. Yet when players from one or other of these leading clubs were capped – and at times the team contained up to five players from one club – their customary techniques were disregarded in training and trials.

Seldom indeed were they able to apply the techniques they knew like the backs of their hands from their own clubs.

Personal insecurity resulted and this disregard was probably the basic reason behind the unfortunate differences of opinion between Hans Günter Schmidt and Bernd Munck on the one hand and the handball association on the other.

Closer cooperation and continual contact between the men in charge of the national team and Federal league teams and trainers are thus urgently needed.

The national trainer would, for instance, do well to visit club training sessions. The behaviour of capped players in these surroundings, their roles and functions in their own teams and their attitude towards the coach, to mention but a few points, could be noted, discussed and evaluated and might lead to fresh insights from which the national team stands to benefit.

(Photo: Nordbild)

Contacts of this kind could serve to eliminate aversion, tension and misunderstandings between individuals and institutions and pave the way towards constructive cooperation.

Concepts empirically conceived of are an indispensable prerequisite for a process that may lead to new ideas.

The scouts sent out to observe international encounters do not seem to have been as effective as they might have been either. Is this attributable to poor preparation and the fact that the scouts did not really know what they were supposed to be looking out for?

Were, on the other hand, their notes of constructive assistance for forthcoming games but insufficiently or superficially analysed and evaluated by the powers that be?

The report submitted by a team of scouts sent to the 1970 world championships in France at a cost of 30,000 Marks has yet to be published.

At Munich the national handball team reached an all-time "low". To seek out a single scapegoat would be too simple. Now is the time and now there is an opportunity of making a fresh start, retaining what has proved of value but keeping an eye open for types of player who play the modern game with the formation of a team that can assert itself at the 1974 World Championships in mind.

What is more, coaching and training need to be given a taste of new broom. Already it is rumoured that before long there will be full professional handball players under contract to their respective clubs. Ought there not first to be fully-trained full-time paid trainers?

Last but not least the handball association would be well advised to review its entire organisational structure and reappraise responsibilities. Imagine football coach Helmut Schön having to consult the FA President before selecting his soccer team!

Heinz Perleberg

(Die Welt, 13 January 1973)

Judo aces retire to leave room at the top

Judo Association officials have themselves brought to an end a successful decade that will always be associated with the names of Wolfgang Hofmann of Cologne, Ferdi Miebach of Hamburg, Peter Herrmann of Berlin and now Grenoble, Gerd Egger of Munich and now Klaus Glahn of Hanover and Wolfsburg.

Either you carry on as a member of the national team or you work part-time as a trainer in one of our training centres, Judo Association sports director Robert Heil was forced to tell Klaus Glahn in particular.

This demand, based as it is on a lucrative financial offer, has forced this country's best judoka to make up his mind one way or the other. Glahn and his equally successful coach, Han Ho San, had hoped to postpone the decision for another six months or so.

The next world championships are due to take place in Lausanne, Switzerland, from 21 to 24 June. Glahn wanted to notch up a first place at long last and rid himself of the reputation of being the eternal runner-up.

Glahn is a not unnaturally ambitious sixteen-stoner with over twenty national and European championship titles to his credit but has never managed to come better than second in world championships and Olympic tournaments.

At the world championships in Mexico City in 1967, in Salt Lake City in 1969 and in Ludwigshafen in 1971. Glahn was three times runner-up and once came third. At the Tokyo Olympics in 1964 he won a bronze medal, at Munich last year he won silver.

Because of the advantage he has in terms of leverage Glahn has learnt to cope with Japanese competition. He has spent months at the Tokyo and Tenri judo schools studying Japanese techniques.

Glahn's bugbears have been the outstanding Dutch judokas Anton Geesing and Wim Ruska. Time and time again they blocked his way to the top, Ruska for instance pipping him at the post at both Ludwigshafen and Munich.

"Once Ruska has retired the title will be yours for the asking," friends and workmates at Volkswagen in Wolfsburg where Glahn is an electrician have told him time and time again in recent weeks.

Han Ho San, his coach, also encouraged him, being eager as a Korean to give the none too popular Japanese a good hiding at an international event and hoping that Glahn would deliver the goods. This hope at any rate has now been dashed.

Federal trainer Han Ho San, who according to the new training schedules of the Judo Association is more than a mere beagle, did not abandon hope but Klaus Glahn has already made his decision.

"When all is said and done ten years in the national team are more than enough," he said. "I have finally come to a decision and intend to go in for coaching." His official last appearance as a member of the national team was in Edinburgh against Scotland.

His decision will doubtless have been rendered somewhat easier by the new regulations of the Sports Aid Foundation that provide for far less money in grants for a number of Olympic white hopes who have hitherto wanted for nothing.

Glahn has devoted more thought to the future of his sport than virtually any judoka before him and been instrumental in putting into practice a number of ideas and proposals. As a coach he will now be able to earn a few thousand Marks a month more.

At talks with sports aid adjudicators in Cologne on 16 January Robert Heil of the Judo Association finalised the regulations on which his new concept is based.

At a conference in Wolfsburg from 22 to 26 January the coaching council of the Judo Association was set up. The venue was the home base of Glahn, the national champions Fred Marhenke and Raimund Blass, championship runner-up Albert Verhülsdink and the reigning team champions VfL Wolfsburg.

The council is to be headed by Robert Heil, Han So San and Wolfgang Hofmann, a lecturer at the Cologne Sports Academy who intends to devote more time to coaching trainers and will include the honorary state trainers and part-time coaches based at the five training centres.

There can be few sporting disciplines in which old hands remain loyal to their sport after retirement to so great an extent.

Not only Klaus Glahn in Wolfsburg but also ex-internationals, national and European champions Gerd Egger in Munich, Hartmut Riederich in Cologne, Werner Ruppert in Rüsselsheim and Heiner Netzler in Hammelburg are now going in for coaching.

The Judo Association needs new blood. The old hands, including Klaus Glahn, aim to help in the search.

Claus Mittenzwei

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